

VIRGINIA WILDLIFE

January 2003

TWO DOLLARS



2003 Trout Guide



Director's Column

William L. Woodfin, Jr

I rarely use this column as a "bully pulpit" and try to leave the lecturing to others. However, from time to time I come across an issue so compelling that I feel it should be shared with you.

This past summer the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission of the Virginia General Assembly (JLARC) released a report entitled, "Review of Spending in State Government" (Staff Briefing dated June 10, 2002). While this report has not received wide distribution, it does contain information that is important to those of us involved and interested in our natural resources. If you are not familiar with JLARC, I describe it as our state government equivalent to the Office of Management and Budget for the federal government.

The report's purpose was to evaluate where the state has spent its money over the past decade and it ranks where Virginia stands relative to other states in various categories of spending. For example, in 1999 Virginia ranked 3rd in per capita state spending on police and corrections (up from 5th in 1981); our 1999 rank in per capita state spending on education (K-12 and higher education) was 27th (up from 29th in 1981). Now for the kicker, Virginia was 50th—dead last—in 1999 per capita state spending on natural resources, parks and recreation. This was down from 48th in 1981. In case you are reeling, the answer is yes, Virginia spends the least per capita for natural resource conservation and protection than any other state in the country.

Virginia's natural resource agencies receive less than 1% of the Commonwealth's general fund. When combined with the fact that the per capita spending on natural resources in every other state is more than it is here in Virginia, we begin to realize why we struggle so much with our natural resources.

One of the best parts of my career in state government has been the ability to travel all over Virginia. The beauty of our natural resources is overwhelming. Whether you like the openness of our coastal region, the rolling hills of our piedmont, or the majesty of our mountains, you cannot escape the variety, diversity, and

wonder of our natural resources. When you discuss with others why they like to live here, one feature that always surfaces is the quality of life found here in our wonderful Commonwealth. There is no denying that quality of life is a direct result of how much we enjoy our natural surroundings.

We all know that Virginia is fast becoming more urbanized, and a big part of the urbanization challenge is preserving and enhancing the quality of our outdoors. When it comes to land and habitat, one person once told me, "They aren't making any more of it." If this is true, and we know it is, then we must treasure the wild spaces we have. If we don't do that for ourselves, at least we should do it for our children and their children.

Early in January our legislature will convene. One hundred Delegates and 40 Senators will come to Richmond for 45 days, and we already know that the tight budget times currently being experienced by state government will receive much attention. But also during their stay in Richmond, the legislature will be making decisions on how the state budget will be allocated. And the voices that our legislators respect the most are those opinions from the people back in their home areas. Believe it or not, we as individuals have much more influence with our elected officials than state agencies do. We owe it to our legislators to let them know how we feel on issues.

Regardless of whether you consider yourself a sportsman or a sportswoman, a conservationist, a wildlife enthusiast, or just an individual citizen, you really should weigh in on how you feel Virginia is doing on spending for natural resources. You can be sure of one thing, others will be voicing their concerns about the issues important to them. If you feel we should be doing better than 50th on natural resource spending, let your legislator know. If you don't do it for yourself, do it for your children!



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Mission Statement

To manage Virginia's wildlife and inland fish to maintain optimum populations of all species to serve the needs of the Commonwealth; to provide opportunity for all to enjoy wildlife, inland fish, boating and related outdoor recreation; to promote safety for persons and property in connection with boating, hunting and fishing.



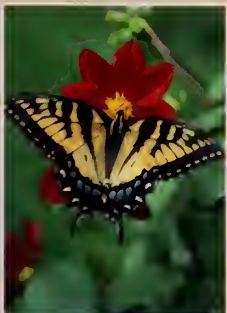
About the cover: "Brown Trout-Brown Drake," an original watercolor by wildlife artist Michael Simon. Michael is from Virginia and specializes in painting the fascinating underwater world of fish. His artwork can be seen on everything from fine angling dinnerware to the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries' Brook Trout Conservation vehicle license plate. To view more of Michael's paintings or to contact him visit www.michaelsimonfineart.com.

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Dedicated to the Conservation of Virginia's Wildlife and Natural Resources



A Celebration of Trout

story & photograph
by King Montgomery

We are blessed in the Old Dominion with miles of trout streams that range from city-bound, delayed-harvest creeks to near pristine mountain waters that are home to our precious native brook trout, and many varied habitats in between. Freestone or spring creeks—all hold this elusive, tantalizing creature that comes in several different flavors including primarily rainbow, brown, and brook.

The past few years have been tough on our trout, particularly in the summer months. The lack of rain along the entire Eastern seaboard has caused streams, rivers, and lakes to run low, stressing the habitat, and sometimes taking its toll on aquatic critters, including fish. During these times, be sensitive to the impact and let the trout alone. Go catch the more ubiquitous

bass or bluegills in a pond or reservoir instead.

Fortunately with a wet spring and a pretty damp fall, trout fishing in much of the Commonwealth was pretty good last year, including on many of the mountain trout streams. Brook trout and many of the brown trout strains are fall spawners and they certainly appreciated the autumn rains. Hopefully, we'll have some snow this winter, and the early spring thaw, coupled with the precipitation we hope comes, will help fill the waterways.

Yes, Virginia trout live in beautiful places—places that we as intruders must respect and take care of. When we go trout fishing, we go as visitors, not as owners, for we cannot and should not lord it over nature nor try to own her. And the trout belong to no one, and yet everyone in equal measure may fish for them: the bait fisher, the caster of metal spinners, and the fly angler, who is probably closest of them all to the trout.

Anglers, and hunters too, are the first-line stewards of the land and water. We are the vanguard of conservationists because we are often in the field and on the stream. We appreciate the natural bounties and value good habitat, including all the plants and animals—large like the deer and small like the trout—that comprise a sensitive and balanced ecosystem. We must sound the alarm when things are wrong in our environment, when others pollute the water and air.

When we enter a stream or river we become part of it. When the current laps our legs—bare, clothed or encased in waders—the water seems to enter us and flow out the other side, not leaving us but rather taking a piece of us along on a ride to wherever it is going. And we again will join the water and the land when our time on earth is up.

We can never go back to the way things used to be before we damaged and scarred our natural environment. But we can do the best we can with what remains, and try to improve on it as much as possible so we and our progeny can feel the thrill of nature, of the outdoors, and of trout. □

King Montgomery, a frequent contributor to Virginia Wildlife, recently retired from 35 years of federal government service and now is a full-time writer/photographer. He lives in Burke.

2003 Trout Guide

Introduction

by Larry Mohn

VDGIF Fisheries Regional Manager

Photos by Dwight Dyke

Virginia contains over 2,800 miles of trout streams, in addition to numerous ponds, small lakes, and reservoirs. The total includes over 2,300 miles of wild trout streams and about 600 miles of water inhabited with stocked trout. Virginia's diversified trout habitat offers a wide range of trout fishing opportunities.

Virginia's warm climate and topography generally limit trout habitat to the western portion of the state. The Blue Ridge and Allegheny mountains provide the elevation to maintain low water temperatures year-round, while the valleys between these ranges contain the unique limestone formations necessary to produce highly productive spring creeks.

Trout management in Virginia consists of three basic programs. The *Catchable Trout Stocking Program* is the best known and most popular. Such waters are stocked from October through May with catchable-sized trout. See the *Trout Stocking Plan* on pages 12-13 for the streams and lakes stocked and their stocking schedule.

The *Wild Trout Program* includes the management of reproducing populations of brook, rainbow, and brown trout. Efforts are directed primarily at habitat preservation and proper regulation for protection of spawning stocks.

The *Fingerling Trout Stocking Program* involves stocking sublegal trout into waters that have cold summer water temperatures and a good food source. This is the smallest of the three programs but includes many of our high quality, special regulation trout fishing waters.

Restrictions have been applied to certain wild trout waters, as well as several types of stocked trout streams, to provide anglers with the opportunity to catch more and larger trout throughout the fishing season. These special regulation areas include some of the state's best trout waters and are described in detail in this guide.

The trout season is open year-round in Virginia. Fishing success for both wild and stocked trout should be very high through the spring, fall, and mild winter periods. From June through September, normally low stream flows and warming water temperatures make trout fishing more difficult. However, experienced trout anglers can find good trout fishing opportunities throughout the year.

All stocked, special regulation, and larger wild trout waters are featured on the five maps beginning on page 24 in this special issue.

New For 2002

A number of regulation changes have been adopted for 2003. Delayed harvest regulations have been established on three new sections of trout water. These include a 1.2 mile section of Holmes Run in Fairfax County, a 2.6 mile section of Hardware River in Fluvanna County and a 2 mile section of the Roanoke River in the City of Salem. Detailed descriptions of these new waters can be found on pages 9 and 10. A one-day closure has been adopted for the Trout Heritage waters. All Heritage waters will be closed to fishing on April 4 and reopened to angling at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 5. This change will allow the Virginia Department of

Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) to get all waters stocked for the Saturday opening and give anglers a little more time to get to the stream that morning. Finally, a minimum size limit of 10 inches has been established for all trout caught in Skidmore Lake in Rockingham County.

A few changes have been made to the trout stocking plan. Pigg River within Waid Park in Franklin County has been added to the trout stocking list as a Category A water and a Trout Heritage Day water. Helton Creek in Grayson County and Guillion Fork Ponds in Wythe County



have been changed from Category C to Category B waters, which will increase the frequency of stocking. Guillion Fork Creek will be dropped from the stocking program because of continued poor flow, and Little Passage Creek in Shenandoah County will be dropped because of development of a wild brook trout fishery. The stocking of Category C waters will change slightly. All C waters will be stocked three times but stocking may occur anytime from October through April.

Finally, Sinking Creek in Giles County will no longer be open to the public as a trophy trout water. This stream is on private property and the current landowners have asked that the program be discontinued.

Catchable Trout Stocking Program

As in most states, put-and-take trout fishing draws the most interest and attention in Virginia, probably because of the availability of catchable-sized trout and ease of capture. Virginia's catchable program is supported by hatcheries located at Marion, Paint Bank, and Wytheville. Three additional rearing

facilities are located at Marion, Montebello, and Williamsville.

Trout eggs are collected from large brood stock in early fall and placed in incubator trays which maintain an even flow of well-oxygenated water through the eggs. Once the embryo is developed, trays must be constantly cleaned and dead eggs removed to control disease. After 25–30 days the trout begin to hatch. The small "fry," as they are called, remain attached to their egg sacs for about 14 days, and draw their food from it. The fry are kept indoors in small troughs until their sacs are absorbed and they begin taking small, pelleted food. When they reach a suitable fingerling stage (2–3 inches) they are trans-

ported to rearing facilities where they are placed in raceways.

The fish are fed several times daily for at least a year until they reach catchable size (9–11 inches). During this rearing period, it is necessary to clean raceways daily to control disease and occasionally grade fish to ensure that the larger trout will not eat smaller ones.

The program is covered primarily from the sale of trout licenses. In addition to a valid state freshwater fishing license, a trout license is required to legally fish in designated stocked trout waters. Annual output



Above: Trout eggs are collected from brood stock, fertilized, and then placed in incubating trays where the eggs will develop. Below: When the trout reach suitable size they are taken to rearing facilities, placed in raceways, and fed until they grow to a catchable size.

from the program is approximately 1,250,000 catchable trout, in addition to variable numbers of fingerling and subcatchable trout used in other programs.

By January 1, most streams on the stocking list will have already received at least one stocking and will continue to be stocked through spring. Stockings will be discontinued by the end of May and will resume after October 1. Streams and

lakes will be stocked at various intervals, depending on their potential to hold trout during the late spring and early fall. Fishermen should find that most streams have good numbers of trout throughout the stocking season.

Waters to be stocked are listed by county in the *Trout Stocking Plan* (see pages 12–13). The plan indicates the frequency of stocking and the specific stocking periods for each stream. Call your local VDGIF office for more information. For daily trout stocking updates during stocking season, call **1-434-525-FISH (3474)** or check our Web site at www.dgif.state.va.us.

Stocked trout streams are marked with appropriate signs, which identify the portion of stream stocked. Marked sections are open to public fishing, in accordance with agreements between the Department and private landowners. This is the only case where anglers are not required to have landowner permission before fishing on private water.

Special Regulations

Fee Fishing Areas

The fee fishing areas offer put-and-take trout fishing with the



added advantage that trout are stocked several times weekly throughout the season. The fee fishing program operates from the first Saturday in April through September at Clinch Mountain and Crooked Creek and from the first Saturday in April through June 15 and from September 15 through October 31 at Douthat. For those anglers who miss the opening day of trout season, the fee fishing areas still provide this opportunity on the first Saturday in April when they open at 9:00 a.m. During the fee fishing season, a daily permit is required in addition to a valid Virginia freshwater fishing license. After the fee fishing season, these areas revert to designated stocked trout waters and a trout license is required instead of the daily permit. The creel limit at these areas is 6 fish per day.

Clinch Mountain Fee Fishing Area

The Clinch Mountain Fee Fishing Area is located in southwest Virginia, about 7 miles west of Saltville. The area consists of approximately 7 miles of Big Tumbling Creek and its two major tributaries, Briar Cove Creek and Laurel Bed Creek. Big Tumbling Creek is a large, steep gradient stream with numerous small waterfalls and large, deep rocky pools. The two tributaries are much smaller with a more moderate gradient. Laurel Bed Lake is no longer part of the fee fishing program and does not require the daily permit. However, the lake continues to be managed for trout as well as for flow augmentation for Big Tumbling Creek. Trout are stocked daily (except Sunday) throughout the fee period in the streams, and fishing begins at 6 a.m. daily, except for opening day. Camping is available at the area and VDGIF owns and manages the surrounding land.

Crooked Creek Fee Fishing Area

Crooked Creek is located in Carroll County, 5 miles east of Galax. The area consists of 5 miles of

stream, which is stocked. In addition, approximately 2 miles of the stream is managed as a wild trout fishery. Crooked Creek is a wide, fairly low gradient stream with a gravel bottom. The surrounding land is mixed fields and woodlots, not characteristic of the more common mountain stream drainages. Fishing must cease at 7 p.m. to allow for restocking. No camping facilities are available at Crooked Creek, but private facilities are available nearby.

Douthat Lake Fee Fishing Area

The Douthat Fee Fishing Area was expanded several years ago to include about 4 miles of Wilson Creek along with the stocking of 60-acre Douthat Lake. This fee fishing area has two features designed to encourage children to participate. A small "children-only" area has been established on Wilson Creek, just below the dam. In addition, children 12 years of age and under can fish without a permit throughout the fee-fishing area as long as they are accompanied by a permitted adult and their combined creel does not exceed that of the adult. The lake provides fishing for bass, bluegill, crappie, pickerel, and catfish, in addition to trout, which are stocked twice weekly. During most summer months, conditions become unfavorable for trout stocking. Therefore, at Douthat, the fee fishing season runs from the first Saturday in April through June 15 and from September 15 through October 31. From June 16 through September 14, no trout will be stocked and no daily fee or trout license is required although trout fishing opportunities will remain for trout still present in the lake from previous stockings. The lake, stream, and surrounding land are located within Douthat State Park and are administered by the Virginia Division of State Parks. Available recreation includes camping, hiking, and swimming in addition to fishing. Cabins are also available for rent if application is made well in advance. The park is located in a beautiful

mountain setting with most of the surrounding land within the George Washington National Forest.

Delayed Harvest Trout Streams

This program incorporates aspects of both catch-and-release and put-and-take trout fishing. Catchable-sized trout are stocked in the fall, winter, and spring. From Octo-

ber 1 through the following May 31, only artificial lures may be used, and all fish must be returned unharmed. From June 1 through September 30 general trout regulations are in effect and trout may be creeled. A trout license is required to fish these waters from October 1 through June 15.

Accotink Creek (Fairfax County)

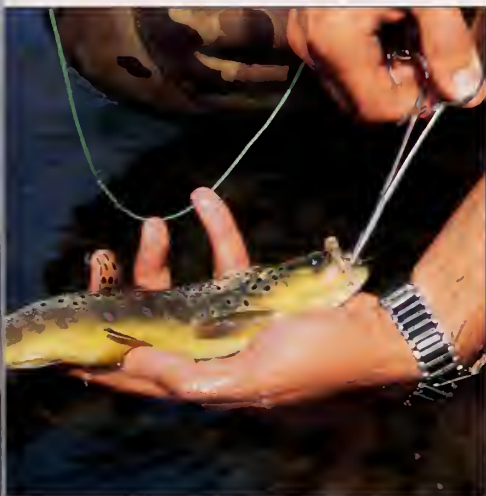
The delayed harvest section of Accotink Creek extends from Route 236 (Little River Turnpike) downstream 1.9 miles to Route 620 (Braddock Road). This stream section is bound by a Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) floodplain park that belies the stream's urban setting (the upper boundary is adjacent to the Capital Beltway). The stream contains numerous riffle-run-pool sequences with good holding pools, and it has an abundance of large woody debris. Primary access is via the FCPA Wakefield Park facility off Braddock Road.

Back Creek (Bath County)

The rugged mountains that form the backdrop to the Back Creek spe-



cial regulation area are one of the area's most appealing features. The stream is about 25 feet in width with moderate gradient and excellent fly-fishing opportunities. The stream has been extensively reconstructed to improve trout habitat by Dominion Virginia Power, who constructed a pump storage facility just upstream. The land adjacent to this stream section is managed for recreation by Dominion Virginia Power. In addition to trout fishing, the area offers a campground, picnic pavilion,



ion, outdoor games, and two warmwater lakes for fishing and swimming. Take Route 39 west from Warm Springs to Mountain Grove, then right on Route 600 for 6 miles.

Chestnut Creek (Carroll County)

Chestnut Creek was established as a delayed harvest water in 2001. The managed section begins at Route 793 north of Galax and extends downstream 2.3 miles to the confluence with the New River. The stream parallels the New River Trail State Park, which offers a unique hiking or biking opportunity to access the many rock ledges and large pools common in this reach of stream. Parking is limited, but available at the Route 793 bridge. In addition to the state park, many private landowners have made this program possible, and anglers should be sure to respect adjoining private property.

Hardware River (Fluvanna County)

Although located in Virginia's piedmont region, the rocky outcrops, cliffs, and steep banks of Hardware River resemble a mountain stream. This aesthetically pleasing section of river, located within the Hardware River Wildlife Management Area (WMA), will likely become a favorite destination for trout anglers. The special regulation area covers a 2.6 mile section of the Hard-



ware River from Muleshoe Bend downstream to the Route 646 bridge. From the west, the river and the Hardware River WMA is accessed by taking Route 6 east from Scottsville then turning right onto Route 611 to the Kidd's Mill Road parking area. To access the eastern portion of the WMA, continue east on Route 6 and turn right onto Route 646. Detailed maps and information on the Hardware River WMA can be obtained from any of the Department's offices or from the Department Web page.

Holliday Creek (Appomattox/Buckingham Counties)

The Holliday Creek delayed harvest section is located completely within the Appomattox/Buckingham State Forest. The 2.8 mile section stretches from just above Holliday Lake upstream to Route 640. The stream is approximately 15-25 feet in width and runs through a remote, heavily wooded section of forest that can be accessed by taking Route 24 north out of Appomattox to Route 626. Anglers should turn onto Routes 640 or 614 to access a series of

Trout Heritage Waters for 2003

The following waters will be stocked for Heritage Day on April 5.

Beartree Lake	Washington County
Bark Camp Lake	Scott County
Clinch Mountain Fee Fishing Area*	Washington County
Cripple Creek (Ravens Cliff)	Wythe County
Crooked Creek Fee Fishing Area*	Carroll County
Douthat Lake Fee Fishing Area*	Bath County
Jennings Creek	Botetourt County
Lake Witten	Tazewell County
Liberty Lake	Bedford County
Lincolnshire Lake	Tazewell County
Middle Fork Holston River	Smyth County
Passage Creek	Shenandoah County
Pedlar River (upper)	Amherst County
Pigg River	Franklin County
Rose River	Madison County
Tinker Creek	Roanoke County

* The fee fishing areas are closed to angling from March 31-April 4. Heritage Waters are closed on April 4. On April 5 fishing can begin at 9:00 a.m.

foot trails to the stream that have been developed by the Forestry Department. Despite the fact that this stream is located in the piedmont of Virginia, anglers will be surprised by the quality of the fishing experience available.

Holmes Run (Fairfax County)

Holmes Run, below Lake Barcroft, boasts some amazing habitat for an urban stream. Much of this may be due to the lake's buffering of storm water and silt loads. Consequently, Holmes Run in the 1.2 mile stretch between the Barcroft Dam and the Alexandria line is more characteristic of a less impacted, natural stream. The stream valley is incised, and during months when the forest canopy is intact; urban sounds and sights are nearly eliminated. Anglers will find good fish cover in the form of bedrock, boulders, and large woody debris. A fairly good trail follows (and sometimes crosses) the stream from the parking lot off Columbia Pike (Route 244).

North Fork of Pound River and Pound River (Wise County)

The delayed harvest section begins at the base of the North Fork of Pound Dam and extends downstream about 2 miles to the confluence of Indian Creek. Above Route 23, the North Fork of the Pound River is a medium-sized stream with shallow runs and riffles flowing through fields and woodlots. Downstream of Route 23 the river passes through the town of Pound, gaining size and flow, and taking on a more urban setting. Access is available at the North Fork of Pound Dam, and at parking lots within the town of Pound. This stream provides high catch rates and good fishing opportunities from October through early summer.

North River (Augusta County)

The delayed harvest section of the North River extends from the base of Elkhorn Dam downstream 1.5 miles to the head of the Staunton City

Reservoir. This is a remote section of stream that can only be reached by foot trail. Access is available by parking at Elkhorn Lake and following the trail along the lake to the spillway. This area provides a remote, scenic fishing opportunity during the winter and spring months. Stream flow in the North River is usually low during summer and fall, and the fall trout stocking is often delayed until adequate water flow is available.

Passage Creek (Warren County)

The delayed harvest section of Passage Creek extends from the Warren County line downstream approximately 1 mile through the Department's Front Royal Fish Hatchery. This section of stream is immediately downstream of the area that has historically been stocked under the put-and-take program. Parking is available on Forest Service lands adjacent to Route 678 or on Department lands adjacent to Route 613.

Pedlar River (Amherst County)

The Pedlar River delayed harvest section is 2.7 miles in length and is lo-

cated below the Lynchburg City Reservoir in the George Washington National Forest, southeast of Buena Vista. Anglers should be prepared for a considerable walk to the stream in steep terrain. The stream contains abundant deep pool and run habitat during the winter, spring, and early summer months, and provides great fly fishing opportunities. Water levels during the late summer and fall months can be low due to a lack of water leaving the reservoir. The Forest Service and the Department have cooperated in the development of three access sites to the river located along FS 39 off Route 607.

Roanoke River (Roanoke County and City of Salem)

There are two delayed harvest sections located on the Roanoke River near Roanoke. The first section is located within Green Hill Park in Roanoke County and was established in 2001, and the newest section is located within the City of Salem and was established on January 1, 2003. The Green Hill Park section is easily found off Route 11/460 west of Salem and stretches from the Route 760 Bridge (Diguids Lane) upstream 1 mile to a sign posted at the





mately 50–75 feet in width and has ample riffle/run habitat for wade fishing, as well as pool habitat for anglers who prefer bank fishing.

South River (Augusta County)

The delayed harvest section extends from the Second Street bridge in Waynesboro upstream 2.4 miles to the base of Rife Loth Dam. This stream section runs through the city of Waynesboro and is in an urban setting. South River is a relatively large, wide stream with shallow runs and riffles. The stream provides outstanding fly-fishing opportunities because of its size and its abundance of aquatic insects. The stream is open to fishing year-round and provides excellent winter fishing.

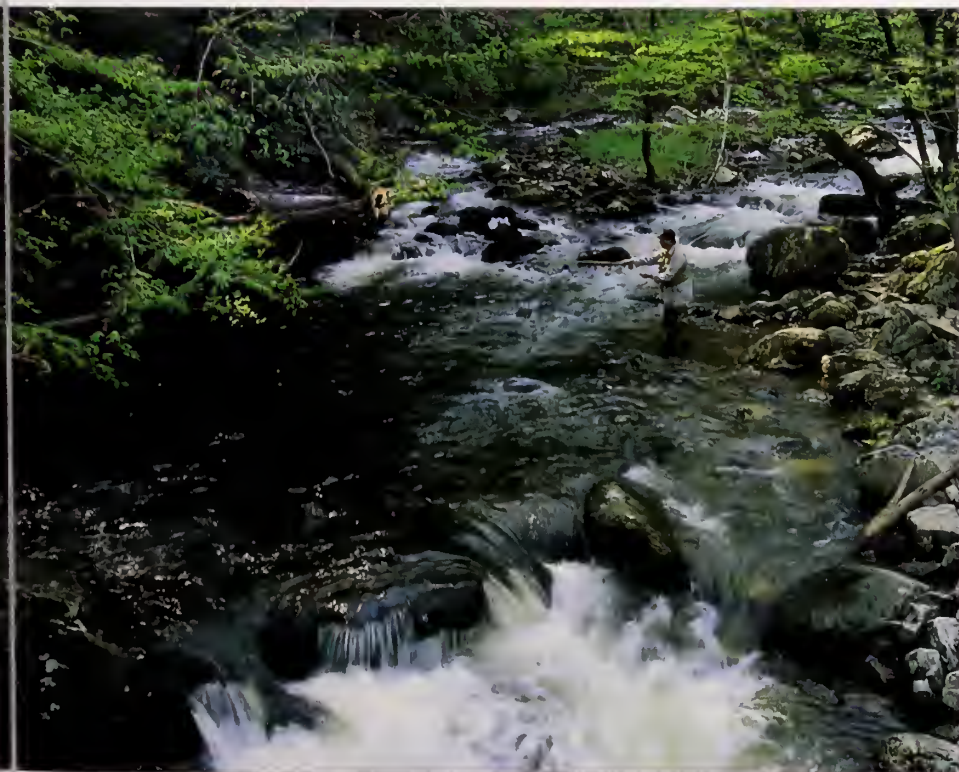
Catchable Trout Stocking Plan

A few minor changes have occurred for 2003. Little Passage Creek in Shenandoah County will no longer be stocked because it has developed into a good quality native brook trout fishery. Stocking of Guil-

lion Fork Creek in Wythe County will also be discontinued because of continued problems with poor flows and limited trout habitat. Guillion Fork Ponds, however, will continue to be stocked and will be upgraded from Category C to Category B with an increase in stocking rate. The result will be more trout more often for the Guillion Fork area. Also, on the positive side, Pigg River within Waid Park in Franklin County has been added to the stocking list as a Category A water and Helton Creek in Grayson County will be upgraded from a Category C to a Category B water resulting in two additional stockings.

Anglers should take note of the changes to Trout Heritage Day for 2003. The Heritage program was started in 2001 to provide an opening day type experience for those anglers who miss that opportunity. For 2003, Heritage streams will be closed to fishing on April 4 to allow for stocking and will reopen at 9:00 a.m. on April 5. This change will allow anglers who live considerable distances from the stocked areas to have a better opportunity to be on the water when fishing begins and will allow Department staff sufficient time to stock trout without immediate fishing pressure. The number of Trout Heritage Waters have been increased this year from 15 to 16 with the addition of the newly stocked Pigg River section located in Waid Park in Franklin County.

Finally, a minor change has been made in how Category C waters will be scheduled for stocking. These waters are generally very small and, with the poor flows the state has experienced in the past few years it is often difficult to get these waters stocked when they have adequate water. Therefore, Category C waters will be stocked a total of three times, with stocking occurring anytime between October 1 and April 30. This will have the added advantage of increasing stocking in those C waters not previously stocked in the fall. In the past, they were only stocked twice, now they will be stocked three times, with all stocking occurring after January 1.



Catchable Trout

These waters require a trout license

ALBEMARLE COUNTY

Mint Springs Lake (Upper)	B	
Mint Springs Lake (Middle)	B	
Moormans River (N. Fork)	B	(NSF)
Moormans River (S. Fork)	B	(NSF)
Sugar Hollow Reservoir	A	

ALLEGHANY COUNTY

Clifton Forge Reservoir*	A	
Jerrys Run*	C	
Pounding Mill Creek*	B	
Smith Creek*	C	(NSF)

AMHERST COUNTY

Davis Mill Creek*	C	
Little Irish Creek*	C	(NSF)
Pedlar River (Below dam)*	DH	
Pedlar River (Lower)*	A	
Pedlar River (Upper)*	B	(H)
Piney River (S. Fk. and Proper)*	B	(NSF)
Rocky Row Run*	C	

APPOMATTOX COUNTY

Holliday Creek	DH	
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AUGUSTA COUNTY

Back Creek*	B	
Braley Pond*	A	
Elkhorn Lake*	A	
Falls Hollow*	C	(NSF)
Hearthstone Lake*	A	
Lower Sherando Lake*	A	
Mills Creek*	C	
North River (Natural Chimneys)	B	
North River (Gorge)*	B	
North River (Upper)*	B	(NSF)
North River (Tail)*	DH	
South River	DH	
Upper Sherando Lake*	A	

BATH COUNTY

Back Creek	DH	
Back Creek*	B	
Bullpasture River	A	
Douthat Lake and Wilson Creek	+	
Jackson River Special Reg.*	A	
Jackson River (Hidden Valley)*	A	
Jackson River (Rt. 623)*	A	
Pads Creek*	C	
Spring Run	A	

BEDFORD COUNTY

Liberty Lake	A	(H)
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BLAND COUNTY

Laurel Fork Creek	C	
Lick Creek	B	
Wolf Creek	A	

BOTETOURT COUNTY

Jennings Creek*	A	(H)
McFalls Creek*	C	
Middle Creek*	B	
North Creek*	B	
Roaring Run*	B	

BUCHANAN COUNTY

Dismal River	A	
Russell Fork River	C	

CARROLL COUNTY

Chestnut Creek	DH	
Crooked Creek	A	**
Laurel Fork Creek	A	
Little Reed Island Creek	A	
Lovills Creek	C	
Stewarts Creek	B	(NSF)

CRAIG COUNTY

Barbours Creek*	B	(NSF)
North Fork Barbours Creek*	C	(NSF)
Potts Creek*	A	

DICKENSON COUNTY

Cranesnest River	B	
Frying Pan Creek	C	
Pound River (Flannagan Dam)	A	
Russell Fork River (Haysi)	B	
Russell Fork River (Bartlick)	A	

FAIRFAX COUNTY

Accotink Creek	DH	
Holmes Run	DH	

FAUQUIER COUNTY

Thompson WMA Pond	A	
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FLOYD COUNTY

Burkes Fork	A	
Goose Creek	C	
Howell Creek	B	(NSF)
Laurel Fork	B	
Little Indian Creek	B	(NSF)
Little River	A	
Mira Fork	B	(NSF)
Rush Fork	C	(NSF)
West Fork Little River	B	(NSF)

FLUVANNA COUNTY

Hardware River	DH	
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FRANKLIN COUNTY

Maggadee Creek	B	
Runnett Bag Creek	B	
Pigg River	A	

FREDERICK COUNTY

Clearbrook Lake	A	
Hogue Creek	B	
Paddy Run*	B	
Winchester Lake	A	

GILES COUNTY

Big Stoney Creek*	A	
Dismal Creek*	B	(NSF)

GRAYSON COUNTY

Big Wilson Creek	A	
Elk Creek	A	
Fox Creek*	B	
Hales Lake*	A	
Helton Creek	B	
Middle Fox Creek	B	

GREENE COUNTY

South River		
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HENRY COUNTY

Smith River (Dam)		
Smith River (Lower)		

HIGHLAND COUNTY

Bullpasture River		
S. Br. Potomac River		

LEE COUNTY

Martins Creek		
North Fork Powell River		

MADISON COUNTY

Hughes River		
Robinson River		
Rose River		

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Craig Creek*		
Pandapas Pond*		
Poverty Creek*		
South Fork Roanoke River		
Toms Creek		

NELSON COUNTY

South Rockfish River		
Tye River		

PAGE COUNTY

Cub Run*		
Hawksbill Creek		
Upper Passage Creek*		

PATRICK COUNTY

Ararat River		
Clarks Creek		
Dan River (Above Talbott)		
Dan River (Below Powerhouse)		
Poorhouse Creek		
Rockcastle Creek		
Round Meadow Creek		
South Mayo River (North Fork)		
South Mayo River (South Fork)		

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY

Quantico MCB		
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PULASKI COUNTY

Peak Creek		
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ROANOKE COUNTY

Glade Creek		
Roanoke River (City)		
Roanoke River (Green Hill Pa)		
Roanoke River (Salem)		
Roanoke River (Salem)		
Tinker Creek		

ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY

Irish Creek*		
Mauzy River		
Mill Creek*		
South River		

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

Briery Branch Lake*		
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Stocking Plan

between October 1 and June 15

B	Dry River	B	(NSF)
	German River	C	
	Hone Quarry Lake*	A	
B	Hone Quarry Run*	C	
A	North Fork Shenandoah River	B	
	Shoemaker River	C	
	Silver Lake	B	
A	Slate Lick Lake*	B	
B	Slate Lick Run*	B	
	South River (Grottoes)	A	

RUSSELL COUNTY

	Big Cedar Creek	A	
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SCOTT COUNTY

	Bark Camp Lake*	A	(H)
	Big Stony Creek	B	
(H)	Little Stony Creek*	B	
	Stock Creek	C	
	Straight Fork (Lower)	C	

SHENANDOAH COUNTY

	Mill Creek	B	
	Passage Creek*	A	(H)
	Peters Mill Creek*	C	
	Stony Creek	A	
(NSF)	Tomahawk Pond*	B	

SMYTH COUNTY

	Comers Creek*	C	
	Cressy Creek*	C	
	Dickey Creek*	C	
	Hurricane Creek*	C	
	Middle Fork Holston River (Marion)	A	(H)
	Middle Fork Holston River (Upper)	B	
(NSF)	South Fork Holston River (Buller Dam)*	A	
(NSF)	South Fork Holston River (Lower)	A	
(NSF)	Staley Creek	A	

STAUNTON CITY

	Lake Tams	B	
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TAZEWELL COUNTY

(NSF)	Lake Witten	A	(H)
	Laurel Creek*	C	
	Lincolnshire Lake	A	(H)
	Little Tumbling Creek	B	

WARREN COUNTY

	Happy Creek	B	
	Passage Creek	DH	

WASHINGTON COUNTY

(H)	Beartree Lake*	A	(H)
	Big Brumley Creek	C	
	Big Tumbling Creek	A	**
	Straight Branch*	C	
	Tennessee Laurel	A	
	Valley Creek	C	
	Whitetop Laurel (Lower)*	A	
	Whitetop Laurel (Upper)*	A	

WISE COUNTY

	Clear Creek*	C	
	Middle Fork Powell River	B	
	Pound River/N.Fk. Pound River	DH	

WYTHE COUNTY

	Cripple Creek (Ravens)	A	(H)
	Cripple Creek (Rt. 94)	A	
	Gullion Fork Ponds*	B	
	Rural Retreat Lake Pond	B	
	Stoney Creek*	C	
	West Fork Reed Creek*	C	

Category A, stocked in each of the following periods: October (once), November or December (once), January or February; (once), March (twice), April (twice), May (once).

Category B, stocked in each of the following periods: November or December (once), January or February (once), March (once), April-May 15 (twice).

Category C, stocked three times between October and April 30.

* National Forest Waters

+ Douthat stocked as Category A, Wilson as Category B put-and-take water after fee fishing season

DH Delayed Harvest Water-Special Regulations apply, please refer to article on Delayed Harvest, this issue.

(NSF) These waters **do not** receive fall & early winter stockings

** A section of these waters is reserved for a fee fishing area

(H) These waters will receive a stocking for the "Heritage Day" program. Heritage Day is April 5. For details see the section explaining Heritage Day in this magazine.

Stocking information for put-and-take stocking can be obtained by calling 1-434-525-FISH (525-3474) or for hearing impaired 1-434-525-4071. The recording is updated after 4:00 p.m. each day fish are stocked. Or go to our Web site at www.dgif.state.va.us.

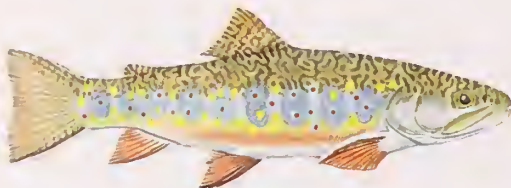


Trout Species of Virginia

TROUT belong to the salmon family (Salmonidae), which are native only to the northern hemisphere. Salmonidae includes trout, salmon, char, whitefish, and grayling.

Brook Trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*)

Coloration: The brook trout is Virginia's most colorful trout species. Its back is dark olive green with light, wormy lines. Its sides have light spots on a dark background and red spots surrounded by a bluish halo. Often the entire side has a bluish tint. Its belly area is generally white with intense orange-red



Brook trout by Michael Simon

streaking during spawning season. Lower fins are distinctively marked with an outer white edge, black line, and reddish coloration.

Distribution: The brook trout is endemic to eastern North America, meaning that originally it occurred in no other region. Initial distribution included the Atlantic seaboard south to Cape Cod, the Appalachians south to Georgia, then extending west through the Great Lakes to Minnesota and north to Hudson Bay. Due to its popularity as a gamefish, however, it has been introduced into many other regions and is now found in much of the western United States, Europe, South America,

New Zealand, and Asia. No other species of trout occurred in Virginia prior to man's stocking activities.

Biology: Brook trout spawn in October and November in Virginia. Spawning takes place in small streams, usually near the tail of a pool. Brook trout generally move upstream to spawn, often into the smaller headwater tributaries. In Virginia, an average female lays approximately 100 eggs in a clean gravel bed. Eggs hatch two to three months after they are spawned, and fry emerge from the gravel the following March.

Brook trout in Virginia reach sexual maturity at two years of age and an average length of 6.5 inches. The life span of this species is generally less than four years in this region, with most fish reaching about 9 to 12 inches by this time. Brook trout to 18 inches have been collected in Virginia and some streams contain occasional trout of 12–16 inches. However, very few fish in a population can be expected to reach this size, even with restricted fishing.

The diet of brook trout consists of almost anything in the stream. Although their preferred foods consist of aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates, minnows, salamanders, and frogs are also taken. In most cases, available food is a limiting factor in the unproductive mountain streams common to Virginia. Therefore, fish must be non-selective and opportunistic to compete. **State Record:** 5 lb. 10 oz., Big Stony Creek, Shenandoah County.

Rainbow Trout (*Onchorynchus mykiss*)

Coloration: This fish has an olive-green back often with a silvery cast grading to a silvery white underside. The dominant characteristic is the pink band extending from the cheek to near the tail. Rainbows are generally well spotted with black spots intensifying on the upper fins and tail. The anal fin is often tipped with white in streambed fish.

Distribution: Rainbow trout are native to the Pacific Coast from Alaska to northern Mexico eastward to

the continental divide. The steelhead is the same species, differing only in its need to migrate to and from the ocean. Rainbows have been widely distributed and now occur throughout the United States, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, South America, Africa, Japan, Asia, Europe, and Hawaii. In Virginia, the species is well established in the southwestern region of the state and is the dominant trout in the Mt. Rogers Area. North of Roanoke, distribution is limited, with most rainbow populations occurring in spring creeks. Although rainbow trout have displaced the brook trout over much of its range in the southeastern United States, most of the remaining brook trout habitat in Virginia does not appear suitable for the rainbow.

Biology: Life history of various rainbow trout populations can differ significantly. Certain strains will migrate from a lake or ocean into streams to spawn, while others may remain in the same stream throughout their life. Also, the time of spawning can vary greatly between



Rainbow trout by Michael Simon

populations. Certain behavioral and physiological differences are genetic, providing fish managers with additional management tools.

In Virginia, most wild rainbow trout populations are strictly stream residents. Spawning occurs in gravel beds similar to those used by brook trout. The major difference is that rainbow trout are generally spring spawners, laying eggs in March. Hatchery managers have altered this natural spawning time, however, to create fall spawners for hatchery purposes. This fall spawning characteristic is apparently retained by some of Virginia's wild rainbow trout populations. Rainbow trout

also have greater reproductive potential than brooks, with females laying 800 to 1000 eggs, depending on the size of the fish. This higher reproductive capacity is probably the reason over exploitation is less of a problem than it is with brook trout.

The diet of rainbows is quite similar to that of brook trout. Larger rainbows often show a greater preference for minnows than do brookies, but the main diet still consists of invertebrates. Rainbows are somewhat more selective than brook trout and, therefore, slightly more difficult to catch.

Rainbows have the potential to attain a much greater size than brook trout, but in Virginia's mountain streams they exhibit similar growth and age structure. In spring creeks and large reservoirs, however, rainbow trout over 5 pounds are not uncommon. **State Record:** 14 lb. 7 oz., Greer Trout Pond, Grayson County.

Brown Trout (*Salmo trutta*)

Coloration: The dorsal area of this



Brown trout by Michael Simon

fish is usually brown, giving way to silvery sides and a yellowish underbelly. Pronounced black spots, often surrounded by a lighter halo, are spread along much of its body, extending well below the lateral line. In addition, irregularly shaped red or orange spots are also present along its sides. Some dark spots occur on the dorsal, adipose, and tail fin, but such coloration is not as concentrated as on rainbows. The adipose fin is usually an orange/red color.

Distribution: Brown trout are native only to Europe and western Asia. They have been widely introduced elsewhere and are now found throughout the United States, south-

ern Canada, and the Rocky Mountains, as well as in South America, Africa, Australia, and New Zealand. In Virginia, the brown trout distribution is limited, with most wild populations occurring in the Carroll, Floyd, and Patrick county areas. Small scattered populations also occur in the lower portion of many



larger, wild brook trout streams throughout the state.

Biology: Brown and brook trout require similar spawning habitats, often utilizing the same sites in streams containing both species. Brown trout spawn later than brook trout, generally in November and December in Virginia. They have a higher reproductive potential than the other two species, mainly because of their larger size.

Brown trout reach sexual maturity at two to three years of age. The life expectancy of this species is longer than that of the other two trout. Although life spans of 10–15 years have been reported, brown trout in Virginia usually do not exceed four to five years of age. The longer life span naturally increases the potential size of the brown despite annual growth rates similar to brook trout. Small mountain streams that rarely have brook trout over 12 inches will occasionally produce brown trout over 20 inches.

Brown trout are highly carnivorous, maintaining a diet of insects, crustaceans, mollusks, salamanders,

frogs, rodents, and fish. Fish and crayfish are the predominant diet of browns over 12 inches while smaller trout generally stick to invertebrates. Larger browns have a tendency to feed at dusk and after dark, making the larger fish difficult to catch. **State Record:** 14 lb. 12 oz., South Fork Holston River.

Wild Trout Program

Wild trout populations require cold, well-oxygenated water, a clean stream bottom, and good fish cover. In Virginia, most trout habitat losses occur through increased stream temperature, siltation, and stream channel alteration.

Water temperature requirements may be the most critical factor facing Virginia's trout populations, and the state's generally warm climate and normally low summer stream flows do not help the situation. Most shaded mountain streams do not exceed 70°F during the summer, which is suitable for trout. Aquatic habitat and suitable water temperature can be maintained even during logging and farming operations when streamside vegetation is left intact. In most cases, maximum stream temperatures in the low 70s are within the tolerable range for trout, but such temperatures improve the

habitat for other stream fishes which trout cannot compete against.

Siltation and other more direct forms of habitat alteration, such as channelization, have also cost Virginia many miles of trout water. Silted stream bottoms decrease the stream's insect population, an important source of trout food. Siltation also makes trout reproduction difficult. Trout lay eggs in stream gravel, and clean gravel is necessary to insure movement of oxygenated water over the eggs. As little as a quarter-inch of silt over trout eggs can result in 100 percent mortality.

Alteration of stream channels is also of critical concern, not only due to the increased siltation it causes, but also due to the removal of fish cover and the potential to raise water temperatures. Trout require overhead cover, such as undercut banks, large rocks, or submerged logs. When such cover is removed, the trout leave. Lack of suitable cover limits the number of large trout a stream can support.

Virginia lost many good wild trout populations prior to the mid-1970s due to habitat degradation. However, many of the land-use practices that resulted in those losses—widespread stream channelization, poor logging techniques, removal of streamside vegetation, intensive agriculture in riparian areas, etc.—have been improved to the point where, over the past two decades, the physical habitat has been improving. In addition, the Department maintains a current inventory of wild trout streams that provides the data necessary to protect this critical habitat.

The Department's trout stream inventory identifies over 2,300 miles of wild trout streams in Virginia. Biologists are encouraged to find that brook trout, the only trout species native to Virginia, still accounts for 80 percent of the wild trout resource in the state. Rainbow trout, a western introduction, have taken over many of the native brook trout streams in the other southeastern states. As a result, Virginia currently has more native brook trout streams

than all other southeastern states combined.

Growth rates of wild trout, particularly brook trout, in Virginia are exceptional when compared with growth rates for similar streams in neighboring states. In most Virginia streams, adult brook trout average 8–10 inches by their third year of age. In respect to the number of streams available and the size of trout present, Virginia probably offers the best native brook trout fishing south of New England.

Unlike warmwater fish, such as bass and bluegill, trout have a very low ability to reproduce. Therefore, in heavily fished areas, it is imperative to protect trout until they are able to spawn at least once. In order to accomplish this objective, a 7-inch minimum size limit has been imposed on all trout creeks in Virginia. Such a limit will allow most wild trout to reach spawning age before they are subject to harvest.

Special Regulation Wild Trout Streams

In the following streams regulations require the use of single hook, artificial lures, and all trout less than 9 inches in length be returned to the water unharmed. The exceptions are: the Rapidan River and its tributaries; Stewart's Creek; North Fork Moorman River; Dan River; East Fork of Chestnut Creek; Roaring Fork; North Creek, and South Fork Holston River, which require the release of all fish caught, and Whitetop Laurel/Green Cove Creeks, which have a 12-inch minimum size limit.

Buffalo River (Amherst County)

Special regulations apply to that portion of North Fork of Buffalo River and its tributaries within the George Washington National Forest. Access is available by forest trail off Forest Road 51 or from the end of State Route 635. Buffalo River is a moderate to high gradient stream dominated by large boulders and deep pools. The stream contains a good, native brook trout population

with numerous fish 8–10 inches in length.

Big and Little Wilson Creeks (Grayson County)

The special regulation sections of Big Wilson and Little Wilson Creeks and their tributaries, Quebec Branch, Wilburn Branch, and Mill Creek, include all portions of each stream within the boundaries of Grayson Highlands State Park and the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area. Big and Little Wilson Creeks provide an opportunity to fish for both wild rainbow and brook trout. Brook trout are primarily restricted to the headwaters of both streams and their tributaries. Rainbow trout can be found throughout the area. Big Wilson Creek offers some spectacular scenery. Large boulders predominate the stream channel, interspersed with deep pools associated with a steep gradient. Access can be gained through Grayson Highlands State Park or Route 806 and 817 off U.S. Route 58. Be prepared to do some hiking to fish this area.

Conway River/Devils Ditch (Greene County)

Special regulations apply to that portion of Conway River and its major tributary, Devils Ditch, within the Rapidan Wildlife Management Area and the Shenandoah National Park. The stream contains brook trout in the upper reaches with wild brown trout scattered through the lower portions. Adult brook trout range from 7–11 inches in length; brown trout occasionally exceed 20 inches. The stream lies north of Standardsville and can be reached by Route 615 from Graves Mill.

Dan River (Patrick County)

The section of the Dan River in Patrick County from the Pinnacles Powerhouse upstream to Townes Dam is designated as a catch-and-release trout fishery. Wild brown trout are the dominant species in this stretch, although the occasional brook or rainbow trout may be caught. This is a moderate sized

river with a steep gradient and many large, deep pools. The numbers of brown trout present are relatively low (a rough guide would be 2–4 fish/pool), but the size of the fish is above average (fish up to 16 inches are not uncommon).

This portion of the river can be reached by taking Route 8 south from Stuart to Route 103 west, turn right on Route 648 at Claudeville and proceed to the powerhouse at the end of the road. The upper end of this section can be reached by taking Route 614 south from Meadows of Dan, turning left on Route 602, and proceeding to Townes Dam. A permit from the City of Danville is required to access the special regulation section, and can be obtained at no charge from the Pinnacles Powerhouse or from the City Utilities Department. Contact: City of Danville, Director of Electric Division, Department of Utilities, P.O. Box 3300, Danville, VA 24543. Phone 434/799-5270.

East Fork of Chestnut Creek (Grayson and Carroll Counties)

The East Fork of Chestnut Creek, locally known as Farmer's Creek, is designated a catch-and-release trout fishery. The special regulation section includes all portions of the creek upstream of the Blue Ridge Parkway. The lower mile of the special regulation area is a low gradient, native brook trout stream with numerous deep pools and undercut banks. The stream decreases in size and increases in gradient upstream, and it is characterized by numerous small plunge pools and a dense rhododendron canopy. Adult brook trout average 8–13 inches in length with occasional larger fish in the lower reaches. The stream lies south of Galax, crossing the Blue Ridge Parkway a short distance east of Route 89.

Little Stony Creek (Giles County)

Special regulations apply to that portion of Little Stony Creek in the Jefferson National Forest. Most of the special section is below the Cascades waterfall. The upper reaches

of Little Stony Creek contain native brook trout, but rainbow trout comprise most of the trout population below the Cascades. Adult rainbows average 7–12 inches in length. The area is heavily used by hikers and picnickers. The stream is located near Pembroke and can be reached by Route 623.

Little Stony Creek (Shenandoah County)

Little Stony Creek is a small mountain brook trout stream. The special regulations apply to that portion of stream located within the George Washington National Forest, including Woodstock Reservoir. Adult brook trout presently average 7–10 inches in length. The stream is located west of Woodstock and the Forest Service Road 92 crosses the lower portion of the special regulation section. Much of the upper reaches can only be reached by foot trail.

North Creek (Botetourt County)

The upper section of the stream (upstream of the North Creek campground) was designated a catch-and-release trout stream in 1999. Rainbow trout predominate, although brook trout are present as well. Adult trout will range from 7–12 inches. The stream is located east of Buchanan, a short distance from I-81. The Jefferson National Forest maintains a campground adjacent to the stream and vehicular access is available along most of its length.

North Fork Moormans River (Albemarle County)

That portion of the Moormans River lying within the Shenandoah National Park is designated as catch-and-release. The stream has historically contained an excellent population of brook trout with numerous adults of 8–12 inches. In addition, a small population of wild brown trout can be found in the lower half of the stream. However, this drainage was struck with devastating floods during June, 1995. The stream suffered significant habitat

damage and resident trout populations have been severely reduced. Brook trout populations have been slow to recover in the lower reaches. Access to the Moormans River is available over State Route 614 past Sugar Hollow Reservoir, but much of the streamside trail no longer exists.

Ramsey's Draft (Augusta County)

Ramsey's Draft and its tributaries within the George Washington National Forest provide over 10 miles of native brook trout water. Most of this section of the stream is located within the Ramsey's Draft Wilderness Area, providing the angler with the opportunity to fish for quality native trout in a remote setting. Summer flows are usually quite low in this stream, so plan to fish Ramsey's Draft during the springtime. To reach Ramsey's Draft, drive 15 miles west of Churchville on Route 250 and look for the Mountain Home Picnic Area on the right. A foot trail parallels the stream from the picnic area.

Rapidan River (Madison County)

The Rapidan River is Virginia's best known trout stream. Not only was it the state's first special regulation stream, it was also the site of the Presidential Retreat established by President Hoover. Much of the original Camp Hoover is still intact and is occasionally used. The special regulation area of the Rapidan includes all the stream and its tributaries within the Shenandoah National Park and the Rapidan Wildlife Management Area. The stream contains an excellent native brook trout population with good numbers of 10–11 inch adults.

This stream drainage was hit by devastating floods in June, 1995 and September, 1996. Stream habitat was severely impacted along the lower reaches and in one tributary, the Staunton River. Impacted brook trout populations have rebounded very well in the Rapidan and, despite the significant loss of habitat in the Staunton River, populations in that stream are showing remarkable

recovery. Access to the Rapidan is available over Route 662 from Graves Mill and over Route 649 from Criglersville.

Roaring Fork (Tazewell County)

This special regulation area is located within the boundaries of the Beartown Wilderness Area of the Jefferson National Forest. Acidification of this stream, resulting in a steadily declining brook trout population, prompted the inclusion of this stream section into Virginia's catch-and-release trout regulations. Access to the special regulated section is difficult and some hiking will be required. Access can be gained from Forest Service Road 222 off Route 16, south of Tazewell.

St. Mary's River (Augusta County)

The special regulation section includes all portions of the St. Mary's River above the gate at the National Forest boundary. It is a fairly high gradient stream with a number of waterfalls. Although water levels can get quite low along lower reaches, flows are much improved upstream and large, deep pools provide ample trout cover. Adult brook trout average 8–12 inches in length. Historically, the St. Mary's was well-known for its wild rainbow trout fishery, but stream acidification completely eliminated the wild rainbow trout fishery and seriously impacted native brook trout reproduction. In the spring of 1999, the U.S. Forest Service, in cooperation with the Department and other private organizations, limed the St. Mary's River to improve water quality. This effort has proven to be very successful. The dry weather we have experienced the past several winters has been ideal for brook trout reproduction and the improved water quality has allowed these fish to survive to adult size. The brook trout population in St. Mary's River is now higher than it was in the 1970s. The stream lies east of Raphine off Route 608, a short distance from I-81. Most of the area is accessible by foot trail only and backpacking is popular.

South Fork Holston River (Smyth County)

This section of the South Fork Holston River lies within the boundaries of VDGIF's Buller Fish Hatchery. From the concrete dam downstream to the lower boundary of the hatchery property, only artificial lures with single hooks may be used and all trout caught must be released. This special regulation section of stream provides an excellent opportunity to catch trout of trophy size. Access can be gained through the Buller Fish Hatchery property off Route 650, south of Marion.

Stewart's Creek (Carroll County)

Stewart's Creek is another of the catch-and-release trout fisheries. It is a high-gradient, native brook trout stream with numerous plunge pools, rock ledges, and a dense rhododendron canopy for cover. Approximately 4.5 miles of Stewart's Creek and its two major tributaries, North Fork and South Fork Stewart's Creek, were opened to the public in 1989 for year-round fishing as part of the Stewarts Creek Wildlife Management Area.

Stewart's Creek Wildlife Management Area is southeast of Galax on the east side of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Take Exit 1 off I-77. Follow the trailblazer signs to the area.

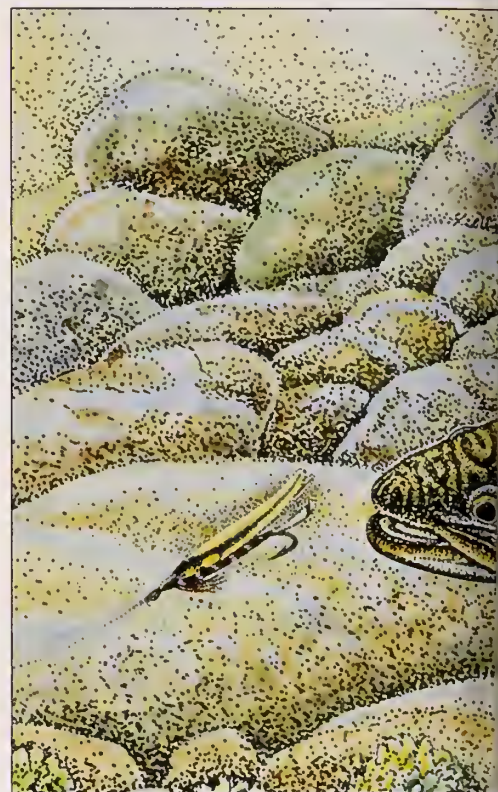
Whitetop Laurel/Green Cove Creeks (Washington County)

The special regulation area includes two sections. Prior to 1999, the lower mile of Green Cove Creek plus Whitetop Laurel Creek (to the first bridge above the village of Taylors Valley) made up the special regulation area. In 1999, an additional section (that extends from the Forest Service boundary below Taylors Valley, 2 miles downstream to the mouth of Straight Creek) was added. There remains a section of catchable, trout stocked water without special regulations through the village of Taylors Valley. Whitetop Laurel is one of Virginia's largest and most beautiful wild trout streams. Wild rainbow trout dominate, with most adults in the 7–14 inch class. A few

wild brown trout provide occasional trophy fish. The special regulation area is located east of Damascus (near the Tennessee line) and lies within the Mount Rogers Recreation Area. Minimum size limit in this section is 12 inches.

Shenandoah National Park (SNP)

The Park provides an entire region of special regulation trout



streams, extending from Front Royal to Waynesboro. Park regulations were modified in 1996 and most streams are now open to fishing. However, only a portion of those streams open to angling allow for the harvesting of trout. Check with SNP for their annual list of streams where harvesting is permitted. All fishing in the Park is restricted to the use of single hook artificial lures. In streams allowing harvest the creel limit is 6 trout per day, all of which must be 9 inches or more in length. Most streams within the Park contain good populations of native brook trout, while a few of the larger east slope streams also contain isolated populations of brown trout.

Fingerling Stocking Program

The fingerling stocking program is the smallest of the state's three management programs. Established in the mid-1970s,

size limit) trout, and often length limits and angling gear restrictions are imposed to protect these small fish until they reach harvestable size. In areas receiving heavy fishing pressure, special gear restrictions are often necessary to avoid high hooking mortality rates that can occur when bait fishing is permitted. These fish will often be caught several times before they eventually reach

pation in the program is growing. VDGIF recognizes this growing interest and is continuing to develop new waters in the state.

Trout Lakes

The warm summer climate of Virginia limits the potential for development of good trout populations in lakes. Numerous small ponds and lakes are stocked under the catchable stocking program (see *Trout Stocking Plan*), however, very few provide good, year-round trout habitat for management of wild or put-and-grow trout fisheries. In order to provide adequate coldwater habitat in Virginia, a lake must either be located at high elevations where cool summer temperatures prevail, or be deep enough to maintain a cold layer of water. Virginia has five small lakes at sufficient elevation for trout and two reservoirs deep enough to provide a two-story fishery. These two-story reservoirs stratify during summer months, providing an upper, warmwater layer where fish, such as bass, bluegill, crappie, and catfish exist and a deep, coldwater layer suitable for trout.

Laurel Bed Lake (Russell County)

Laurel Bed Lake is a 330-acre, mountaintop impoundment located approximately 10 miles northwest of Saltville. The lake is located in the Clinch Mountain Wildlife Management Area and, in addition to providing a unique fishery, is used to augment the flow to Big Tumbling Creek during summer months. Until 1999 Laurel Bed Lake was part of the fee fishing area, but the lake no longer requires a daily permit or a trout license. The fishery is based on stocking sub-catchable brook trout in the fall. Fishing is usually excellent through June, with limits of trout being common. The favored fishing methods include night-crawlers, mealworms, flies, and spinners. Fishing usually becomes sporadic as the lake temperature increases, with fish hitting well for a few days, then slacking off for sever-



Brook trout ©Michael Simon

it is designed to take advantage of the natural potential of high-elevation lakes, deep reservoirs, coldwater tailwaters, and spring-fed streams to produce quality trout fishing opportunities where wild fisheries are not possible due to the lack of natural reproduction.

Because summer water temperatures are usually a limiting factor to trout survival in Virginia, under this program a stream or lake must provide suitable, year-round water temperatures for trout survival, have good habitat, and be productive enough to provide adequate food for good growth.

Suitable trout waters are stocked once annually with fingerling or subcatchable (smaller than the legal

harvestable size, and the program can only be successful if hooking mortality remains low.

Depending on the length limit, these stocked fish will not reach a legal size for six months to two years. During this time, trout lose most of their hatchery characteristics, both in appearance and behavior, and create a fishery that approaches a wild one in terms of fishing experience.

Some of Virginia's most exciting trout fishing opportunities can be found within our fingerling stocking program, and by stocking small fish once a year, a high quality fishery can be developed at a fraction of the cost of the more common put and take program. Many anglers have discovered this quality angling and partici-

al days. Favorite summer fishing spots are located around coves where spring branches enter. Late summer and early fall fishing is dependent on the number of fish that survive through the summer, and this changes significantly from year to year. Limited camping is permitted on the management area and a concession is in operation.

Lexington City Reservoir (Rockbridge County)

The Lexington City Reservoir is a 22-acre, high elevation lake located in Rockbridge County. It is a put-and-grow lake that is stocked annually with brook trout. The brookies have done well in the reservoir and many measure 9–13 inches in length.

It is a long hike across USFS lands to the reservoir and primitive camping is permitted. General fishing regulations are in effect, and no trout stamp is required. However, a \$1.00 daily use permit is required from Lexington City Hall, (540) 462-3702.

Mills Creek and Coles Run Reservoirs (Augusta County)

Mills Creek (17 acres) and Coles Run (13 acres) are located in the Pedlar Ranger District of the George Washington National Forest. They are both old Augusta County Water Supply Reservoirs that were first opened to fishing in 1990.

The lakes are managed as put-and-grow lakes and are stocked annually with small brook trout. Samples collected show good populations of 10–12 inch brook trout.

There are no facilities and access by foot is about a half mile to Coles Run and 1.5 miles to Mills Creek. For more information, call the Glenwood/Pedlar Ranger District at (540) 291-2188. Access is west of Route 664 at Sherando off Forest Service Road 42.

Skidmore Lake (Switzer Dam)

Skidmore Lake is a 104-acre impoundment located off Route 33 west of Harrisonburg. The dam was built by the Soil Conservation Service for flood control and water supply, and it is now managed by the

City of Harrisonburg. An access road is available off Route 33. Boats, without motors, are permitted but must be carried to the water as no ramp is provided. Fingerling brook trout have been stocked since 1976 and fishing has been permitted since 1979. Angler success has been good, with most fish in the 8–14 inch range and an occasional large brook trout of 2–3 pounds. New regulations posted in 2002 require release of all trout less than 10 inches. In addition, the lake has developed a fairly good population of largemouth bass, bluegill, and crappie. In recent years, the city has drawn more water from the lake and it is not unusual to find the lake well below full pool in late summer and fall, which can make boat access very difficult. No camp-



ing is permitted at the lake, but primitive camping is available in the National Forest nearby.

Trophy Trout Lakes

Regulations on the following two reservoirs were changed in 1995 to reflect the potential of these lakes to produce trophy-sized trout. The creel limit on these reservoirs was reduced to two trout per day with a minimum size limit of 16 inches. These changes have resulted in the availability of many more large trout.

Lake Moomaw (Alleghany/Bath Counties)

This flood control reservoir was completed in 1981 with the closing of the Gathright Dam on the Jackson River. It resulted in the formation of a 13-mile long, 2,530-acre reservoir with more than 43 miles of shoreline.

Much of the shoreline is adjacent to the 13,428-acre Gathright Wildlife Management Area, which is owned and managed by the Department. The average depth of the lake is 80 feet and flow augmentation results in a normal 5 to 15-foot draw down by late summer.

Trout management at the reservoir consists of stocking subcatchable brown trout and the McConaughy strain of rainbow trout.

Brown trout fishing has been good in recent years with large numbers of 3–5 pound trout reported caught. McConaughy strain rainbow trout are doing very well, also. Most trout are caught by trolling with shad imitation crankbaits; some are caught still-fishing with live shad 25 feet down and others by jump fishing. Some are caught incidental to bass fishing.

The area around Moomaw provides nearly year-round opportunities for boating water sports, fishing, camping, picnicking, hiking, birding, sight-seeing, photography, and hunting.

Boats are restricted to a maximum length of 25 feet. No house boats are allowed and excessive noise is prohibited. Trailer-launched boats must be launched at ramps at Fortney Branch, Bolar Flat, or Coles Point. Canoes and cartops can be launched at Coles Mountain Fishing Access, McClintock Bridge, McClintock Point, and Midway.

The lake is open 24 hours a day, year-round. There is a 12-inch size limit on bass. Neither a trout license nor a National Forest stamp is required.

The Bolar Mountain Recreation Area provides camping, swimming, beaches, restrooms, and picnic grounds. Bolar Flat has a picnic area, a four-lane boat dock, a courtesy dock, a marina, and restrooms.

There are primitive camping areas at Greenwood and McClintock Point. The Morris Hill Campground and picnic area, the four-lane Fortney Branch ramp and courtesy dock, and the Coles Mountain Area are located on the south end of the lake in Alleghany County. A daily fee is charged for swimming, picnicking, camping, and use of boat ramps.

For facilities information, contact the James River Ranger District in Covington (540) 962-2214; the Warm Springs Ranger District in Hot Springs (540) 839-2521 or 839-2442; or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Covington (540) 962-1138.

Philpott Reservoir (Henry County)

Philpott Lake is a 2,880-acre reservoir located west of Martinsville.

Special Regulations

Jackson River Tailwater (Alleghany County)

The Jackson River below Gathright Dam provides almost 19 miles of high quality trout fishing on a large river. The river is legally navigable and is easily floated by canoe. Six access points are available for public use, located at about 3 mile intervals. Several landowners along the upper portion of this section of river have legally established exclusive private rights to the fishery on their properties. Many other landowners have used that legal decision to also post their sections of river. Be-

were stocked annually. The fishery should continue to improve.

In the following streams, special regulations require the use of single hook, artificial lures, and restrict creel to fish over 12 inches in length. Trout from 6–8 inches are stocked periodically and allowed to grow for a year or two before being creel. This approach can be used in streams that maintain good flow, cool summer waters, and are productive enough for good growth of trout.

Smith Creek (Alleghany County)

The special regulation section extends from the Forest Service boundary (above the old C & O Dam) upstream 2.5 miles to the Clifton Forge Dam. Within this section, fingerling brown trout are stocked once annually. The stream contains good numbers of 8–12 inch brown trout with occasional fish to 20 inches. The stream maintains good flow throughout the year and provides wide, flat pools and good fly-fishing opportunities. The best way to access this stream is by Route 606 from Clifton Forge to the access road for the Clifton Forge Water Plant. Fishermen must park at the entrance and walk a half mile to the stream.

Snake Creek (Carroll County)

Special regulations apply to all of Big Snake Creek below Hall Ford and all of Little Snake Creek below the junction of Routes 922 and 674. The stream is located just north of Fancy Gap. Snake Creek is a moderate gradient, softwater, gravel bottomed stream with an average width of about 18 feet. The holdover of stocked brown trout is good, with some fish reaching 4 pounds. Recent sampling efforts indicate that some natural reproduction of brown trout is also occurring.

Trophy Trout Streams

In the following streams regulations restrict fishing to the use of single hook, artificial lures and the creel is two fish per day over 16 inches (ex-



Warmwater fishing is the major attraction, however, trout are also available. Historically, stockings have consisted of rainbow and brown trout released in the fall/winter of the year. Fishing success can be highly variable, probably due to the varying volume of summer coldwater habitat available. Trout can be caught throughout the lake during spring, fall, and winter, but during summer month's most successful fishermen fish at night in deeper water along the main channel and in the lower end of the reservoir. Philpott generally produces some of the larger rainbow trout taken each year, with catches up to 7–8 pounds.

cause of the proliferation of posting and legal challenges by riparian landowners, the Department discontinued its stocking program in 1996.

Regulations on this section of river allow the use of bait and creeling of 4 trout per day over 12 inches in length. Trout populations, which had shown a significant decline after stocking was terminated, have now rebounded. A good wild rainbow trout fishery has developed in the upper half of this river's reach and wild brown trout are now showing up in increasing numbers. Trout density and average size are now approaching levels seen when trout

cept for Mossy Creek where the creel is one fish per day over 20 inches). Mossy Creek is restricted to fly-fishing only. The management approach is to stock fingerling trout (5-6 inches) in high quality streams where they will grow exceptionally fast.

Buffalo Creek (Rockbridge County)

The special regulation area includes that section of stream from the confluence of Colliers Creek upstream 2.9 miles to the confluence of North and South Forks of Buffalo Creek. The stream flows through private land and requires a written landowner permit to fish, which is available from the VDGIF office in Verona (*please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope*). Brown and rainbow trout are stocked annually as subcatchables, and good numbers of 10-16 inch fish are available. Trophy fish of 5-8 pounds have been caught in the stream. Buffalo Creek can be reached by taking Route 251 from Lexington.

Dan River (Patrick County)

The special regulation section is located within the Pinnacles Hydroelectric Project in what is known as the "Grand Canyon" of Virginia. The terrain is quite rugged and the scenery is spectacular. The section contains approximately 6 miles of stream and extends from Talbott Dam downstream to the confluence with Townes Reservoir. The fishery is maintained by natural reproduction and consists primarily of rainbow trout in the 8-12 inch size range and brown trout in the 8-18 inch size range. The upper reaches of the special regulation section can be reached by taking Route 614 south from Meadows of Dan. Turn right on Route 601 and proceed to Talbott Dam. The lower reach of the section can only be accessed by boat at the upper end of Townes Reservoir. A permit from the City of Danville is required and can be obtained at no charge from the City Utilities Department or on site at the Pinnacles Powerhouse. Contact: City of Dan-

ville, Director of Electric Division, Department of Utilities, P.O. Box 3300, Danville, VA 24543. Phone: 434/799-5270.

Jackson River (Bath County)

The regulations for this section of the Jackson River were changed in 1997. To take advantage of the growth potential of the stream, the size limit for taking trout was increased to 16 inches and the daily creel reduced to two. This section is stocked several times a year with catchable-sized trout and good populations are always present. The special regulation section extends from the USFS swinging bridge (located just above the mouth of Muddy Run) upstream 3 miles to the last ford on FS 481D. This section can only be reached by foot travel, either from the Hidden Valley area or off Route 623 and FS Road 481. The area provides a remote fishing opportunity on a relatively large, productive stream. A trout license is required to fish in this stream from October 1 through June 15.

Mossy Creek (Augusta County)

The special section includes about 4 miles of stream extending upstream from the Augusta/Rockingham County line. The stream is located just off Route 42 south of Bridge-water. Fishing in Mossy Creek is restricted to fly-fishing only and a written landowner permit must be obtained (available from the VDGIF office in Verona. *You must include a self-addressed, stamped envelope*). Mossy Creek is a classic, meadow, limestone stream averaging about 15 feet in width and flowing through open pastures. Brown trout in the 3-7 pound class are available to fishermen.

Pound River (Dickenson County)

This special regulation area begins at a sign posted 0.4 miles downstream of John W. Flannagan Dam and extends downstream 1.2 miles almost to the confluence with the Russell Fork River. Located within the rugged Cumberland Mountains,

the scenic, tailwater fishery is dependent on coolwater discharges from Flannagan Reservoir. The Pound River immediately below the dam remains in the catchable trout program. Brown trout fingerlings are stocked in the special regulation area periodically to enhance the existing wild brown fishery. Anglers should be able to find occasional rainbow trout, as well as brown trout, up to and exceeding the 16 inch minimum size limit. This sec-



tion of the Pound River can be accessed from Flannagan Dam, which is owned and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Roaring Run (Botetourt County)

The Roaring Run trophy trout section was established in 1999. The 1 mile section is located in the Jefferson National Forest between the third foot bridge upstream of the Roaring Run Furnace Day Use Area and the Botetourt County line. The lower section of Roaring Run (within the National Forest) remains put-and-take water. The trophy section runs through a very steep gorge that has an abundance of deep pools, which are supplied with coldwater from a large limestone spring. The trophy section continues to be developed using annual brown and rainbow fingerling stockings. Trout growth and survival to date has

been good for both species of trout. Three-year classes of trout have been established in the stream and fish up to 16 inches are available for anglers. The stream can be accessed by taking Route 615 off US Route 220 west of Eagle Rock to Route 621 at Strom.

Smith River (Henry County)

The special regulation area on the Smith River extends from the mouth of Town Creek (approximately 2.5 miles below Philpott Dam) down-



stream to the Route 666 bridge at the upper end of the Town of Bassett. This 3-mile section of the river has a large population of wild brown trout. Fish up to 14 inches are common, but larger fish are relatively rare. The habitat in this area consists of large deep pools connected by moderately deep runs and shallow riffles. There is no direct vehicle access to this portion of the river, so you'll have to park at either end and walk into the section. Also, when power is generated at Philpott Dam, the river is too high for wading. You should call the Army Corps of Engineers (the operators of Philpott Dam) at 276/629-2432 to get the recorded generation schedule before you go fishing.

South Fork Holston River (Smyth County)

The special regulation section is

located south of Marion and west of the community of Sugar Grove off Route 16. The area was expanded in 1999 and now includes approximately 4 miles of stream extending from 500 feet above the dam at Buller Hatchery, upstream to the upper Jefferson National Forest boundary (above the crossing of the Appalachian Trail). The South Fork offers the opportunity to fish for both trophy rainbow and brown trout. An abundance of 10-14 inch trout are available.

License Requirements

All residents 16 years of age and older are required to possess a *state fishing freshwater license* to fish for trout. Persons who fish in designated stocked waters (those waters listed in the *Trout Stocking Plan*) must have an additional *trout license*. A *National Forest Stamp* is necessary when fishing in most waters within the George Washington or Jefferson National Forests. Refer to your fishing regulation pamphlet for specific exemptions and costs of licenses.

When fishing in non-designated trout waters, such as wild trout streams or those special regulation areas not listed in the Trout Stocking Plan, the angler does not need a *trout license*. However, some of the special regulation areas require a *signed landowner permit card* which can be obtained from certain VDGIF offices and streamside landowners (refer to individual stream descriptions in this guide for details).

Out-of-state anglers who fish designated stocked waters need to purchase both a *non-resident state freshwater fishing license* (five-day, non-resident licenses are available), a *non-resident trout license*, and a *National Forest Stamp* (where appropriate.) For fishing in wild trout or most special regulation waters, the non-resident needs only a *non-resident state freshwater fishing license*, the ap-

propriate *National Forest Stamp* and *landowner permit cards*.

Note: The trout license is only required from October 1 through June 15. From June 16 through September 30 anglers can fish in stocked trout waters without a trout license.

Fee-fishing areas require a *state or non-resident freshwater fishing license* and a *daily fishing permit* that can be obtained on site.

Senior citizens holding previously issued (but no longer available) \$5 *senior lifetime fishing licenses* do not need to purchase any additional fishing or trout licenses. Virginia residents 65 years or older do not need to purchase a *National Forest Stamp*.

Please consult the regulation pamphlet available where you purchased your license for specific restrictions on size, creel, gear restrictions, and season lengths. □

More Questions About Trout Fishing?

Call or write to your closest VDGIF office:

Richmond
4010 West Broad St.
P.O. Box 11104
Richmond, VA 23230-1104
804/367-9369

Verona
P.O. Box 996
Verona, VA 24482
540/248-9360

Blacksburg
2206 South Main Street
Suite C
Blacksburg, VA 24060
540/951-7923

Forest
1132 Thomas Jefferson Rd.
Forest, VA 24551-9223
434/525-7522

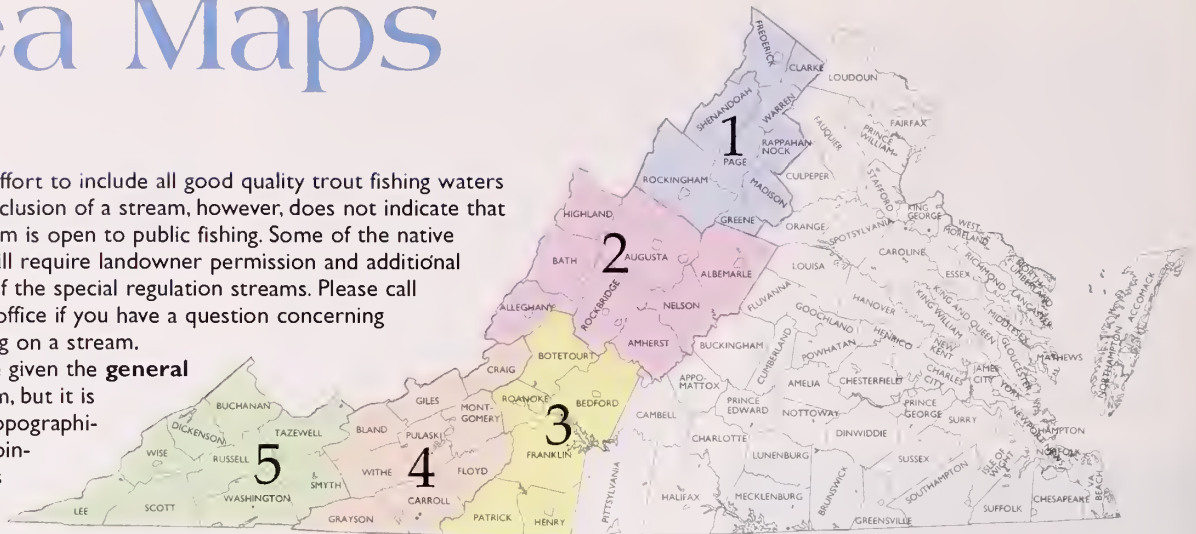
Marion
1796 Highway Sixteen
Marion, VA 24354
276/783-4860

Area Maps

Caution:

We have made an effort to include all good quality trout fishing waters on these area maps. Inclusion of a stream, however, does not indicate that all or part of the stream is open to public fishing. Some of the native trout streams listed will require landowner permission and additional permits as will a few of the special regulation streams. Please call your district fisheries office if you have a question concerning private vs. public fishing on a stream.

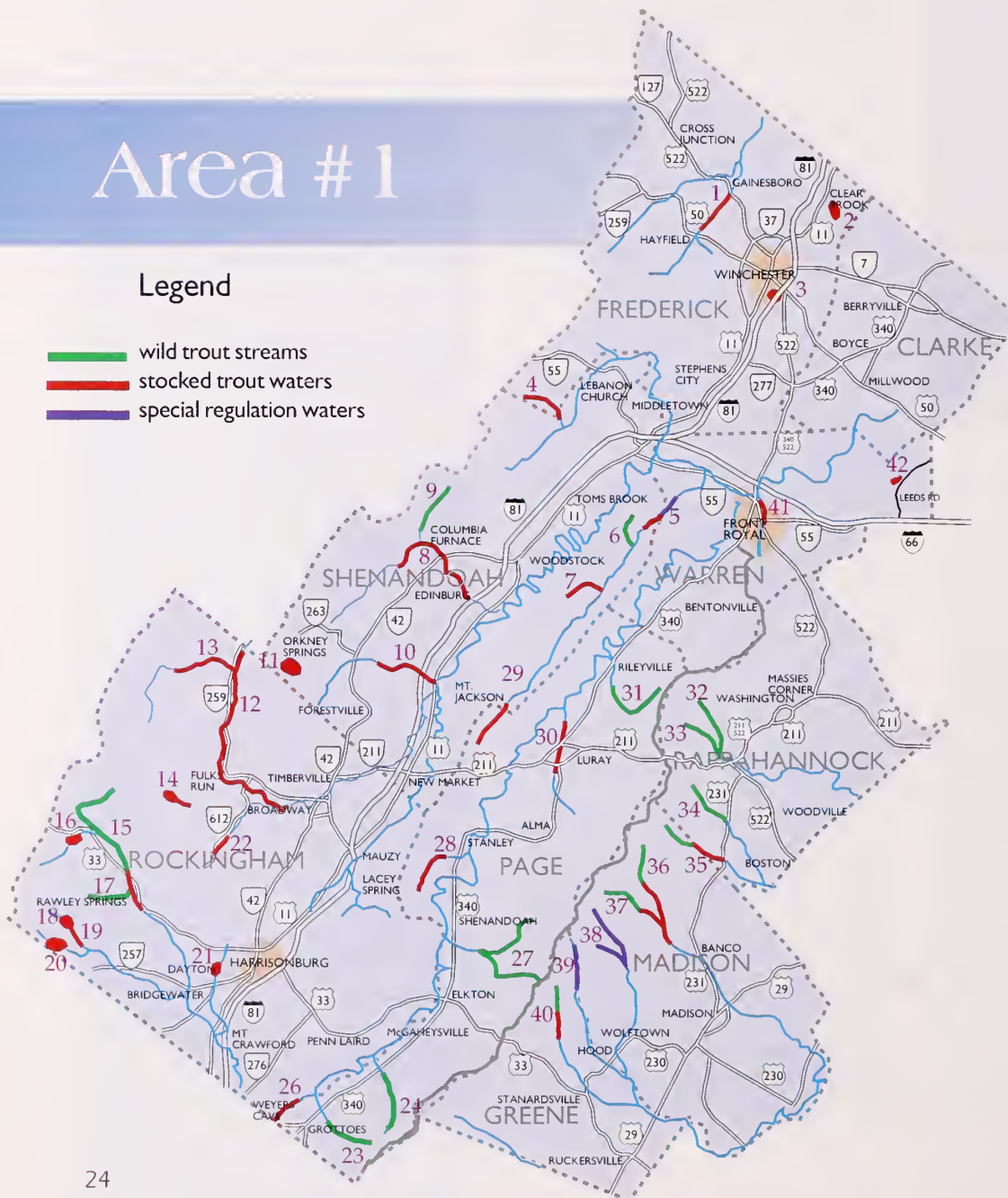
In addition, we have given the **general** location of each stream, but it is essential to obtain a topographical or county map to pinpoint specific locations before you start your fishing trip.



Area #1

Legend

- wild trout streams
- stocked trout waters
- special regulation waters



Frederick County

- (1) Hogue Creek
- (2) Clearbrook Lake
- (3) Winchester Lake
- (4) Paddy Run

Shenandoah County

- (5) Passage Creek
- (6) Little Passage Creek
- (7) Peters Mill Creek
- (8) Stony Creek
- (9) Little Stony Creek
- (10) Mill Creek
- (11) Tomahawk Pond

Rockingham County

- (12) N. Fk. Shenandoah River
- (13) German River
- (14) Slate Lick Lake/Slate Lick Run
- (15) Dry River
- (16) Switzer Lake
- (17) Blacks Run
- (18) Hone Quarry Lake
- (19) Hone Quarry Run
- (20) Briery Branch Lake
- (21) Silver Lake
- (22) Shoemaker River
- (23) Madison Run (SNP)
- (24) Big Run (SNP)
- (26) South River (Grottoes)

Page County

- (27) Naked Creek (SNP)
- (28) Cub Run
- (29) Upper Passage Creek
- (30) Hawksbill Creek
- (31) Jeremys Run (SNP)

Rappahannock County

- (32) Piney River (SNP)
- (33) N. Fk. Thornton River (SNP)
- (34) Hazel River (SNP)

Madison County

- (35) Hughes Rivers (SNP)
- (36) Robinson River (SNP)
- (37) Rose River (SNP)
- (38) Rapidan River (SNP)

Greene County

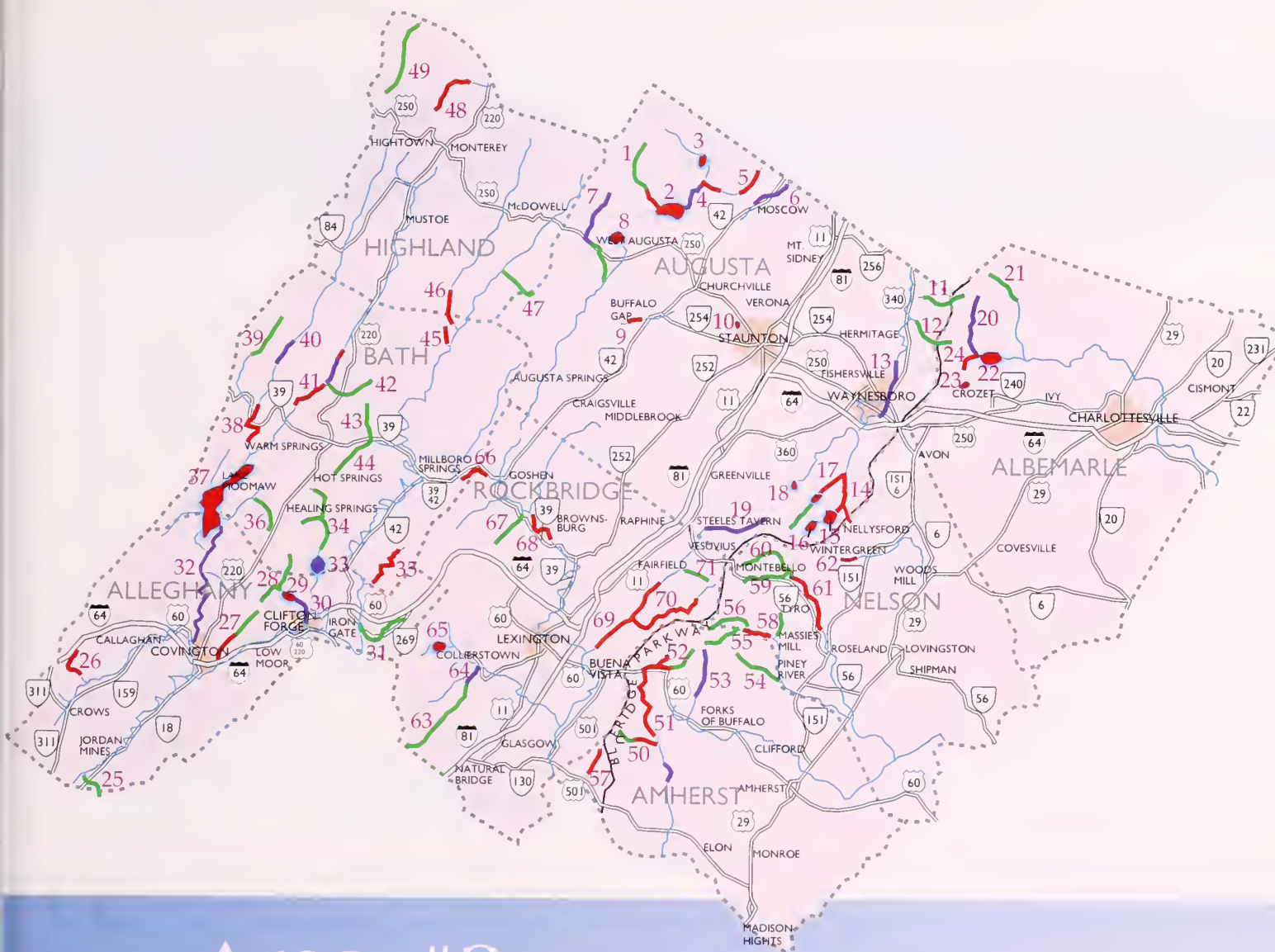
- (39) Conway River
- (40) South River

Warren County

- (41) Happy Creek

Fauquier County

- (42) Thompson WMA Pond



Area #2

Augusta County

- (1) North River (Upper)
- (2) Elkhorn Lake
- (3) Hearthstone Lake
- (4) North River (tailwater and gorge)
- (5) North River (Natural Chimney)
- (6) Mossy Creek
- (7) Ramseys Draft
- (8) Braley Pond
- (9) Falls Hollow
- (10) Staunton City Lake Tams
- (11) Meadow Run (SNP)
- (12) Paine Run (SNP)
- (13) South River
- (14) Back Creek
- (15) Lower Sherando Lake
- (16) Upper Sherando Lake
- (17) Mills Creek Reservoir/Mills Creek
- (18) Coles Run Reservoir
- (19) St. Marys River

Albemarle County

- (20) N. Fk. Moormans River (SNP)
- (21) Doyles River (SNP)
- (22) Sugar Hollow Reservoir
- (23) Mint Spring Lakes
- (24) S. Fk. Moormans River

Alleghany County

- (25) Shawvers Run

- (26) Jerrys Run
- (27) Pounding Mill Creek
- (28) Smith Creek
- (29) Clifton Forge Reservoir
- (30) Smith Creek
- (31) Simpson Creek
- (32) Jackson River tailwater

Bath County

- (33) Douthat Lake
- (34) Wilson Creek
- (35) Pads Creek
- (36) Cascades Creek
- (37) Lake Moomaw
- (38) Back Creek
- (39) Little Back Creek
- (40) Back Creek
- (41) Jackson River
- (42) Muddy Run
- (43) Jordan Run
- (44) Mares Run
- (45) Spring Run
- (46) Bullpasture River

Highland County

- (46) Bullpasture River
- (47) Benson Run
- (48) S. Br. Potomac River
- (49) Laurel Fork

Amherst County

- (50) Little Irish Creek
- (51) Pedlar River
- (52) Davis Mill Creek
- (53) N. Fk. Buffalo River
- (54) Little Piney River
- (55) S. Fk. Piney River
- (56) N. Fk. Piney River
- (57) Rocky Row Run

Nelson County

- (58) Shoe Creek
- (59) S. Fk. Tye River
- (60) N. Fk. Tye River
- (61) Tye River
- (62) South Rockfish River

Rockbridge County

- (63) S. Fk. Buffalo Creek
- (64) Buffalo Creek
- (65) Lexington Reservoir
- (66) Mill Creek
- (67) Guys Run
- (68) Maury River
- (69) South River
- (70) Irish Creek
- (71) Big Marys Creek

Area #3



Botetourt County

- (1) Roaring Run
- (2) Sinking Creek
- (4) Jennings Creek
- (5) McFalls Run
- (6) Middle Creek
- (7) North Creek

Bedford County

- (8) Hunting Creek
- (9) Reed Creek
- (10) Overstreet Creek
- (11) Stony Creek
- (12) Liberty Lake

Roanoke County

- (13) Tinker Creek
- (14) Glade Creek
- (15) Roanoke River
- (16) Roanoke River

Franklin County

- (17) Maggadee Creek
- (18) Runnett Bag Creek
- (19) Shooting Creek
- (20) Philpott Reservoir
- (21) Pigg River

Henry County

- (22) Smith River

Patrick County

- (23) Rockcastle Creek
- (24) Smith River
- (25) Dan River
- (26) Round Meadow Creek
- (27) Dan River
- (28) Ararat River
- (29) Clarks Creek
- (30) South Mayo River
- (31) Poorhouse Creek
- (32) N. Fk. South Mayo River

Legend

- wild trout streams
- stocked trout waters
- special regulation waters

Area #4



Craig County

- (1) Potts Creek
- (2) N. Fk. Barbours Creek/ Barbours Creek
- (3) Meadow Creek

Giles County

- (5) Big Stoney Creek
- (6) Little Stoney Creek
- (7) Johns Creek
- (8) Mill Creek
- (9) Dismal Creek

Montgomery County

- (10) Craig Creek
- (11) Poverty Creek
- (11A) Pandapas Pond
- (12) Toms Creek
- (13) S. Fk. Roanoke River

Floyd County

- (14) Goose Creek

(15) Little River

- (16) W. Fk. Little River
- (17) Howell Creek
- (18) Rush Fork
- (19) Mira Fork
- (20) Little Indian Creek
- (21) Burkes Fork
- (22) Laurel Fork

Carroll County

- (22) Laurel Fork
- (23) Big Reed Island Creek
- (24) Snake Creek
- (25) Elk Spur Branch
- (26) Lovills Creek
- (27) Stewarts Creek
- (28) Crooked Creek
- (29) Little Reed Island Creek
- (30) Chestnut Creek

Pulaski County

- (31) Peak Creek

Bland County

- (32) Laurel Fork Creek
- (33) Wolf Creek
- (34) Lick Creek

Wythe County

- (35) W. Fk. Reed Creek
- (36) Guillon Fork Ponds
- (37) Stoney Creek
- (38) Dry Run
- (39) Cripple Creek
- (40) Rural Retreat Lake Pond

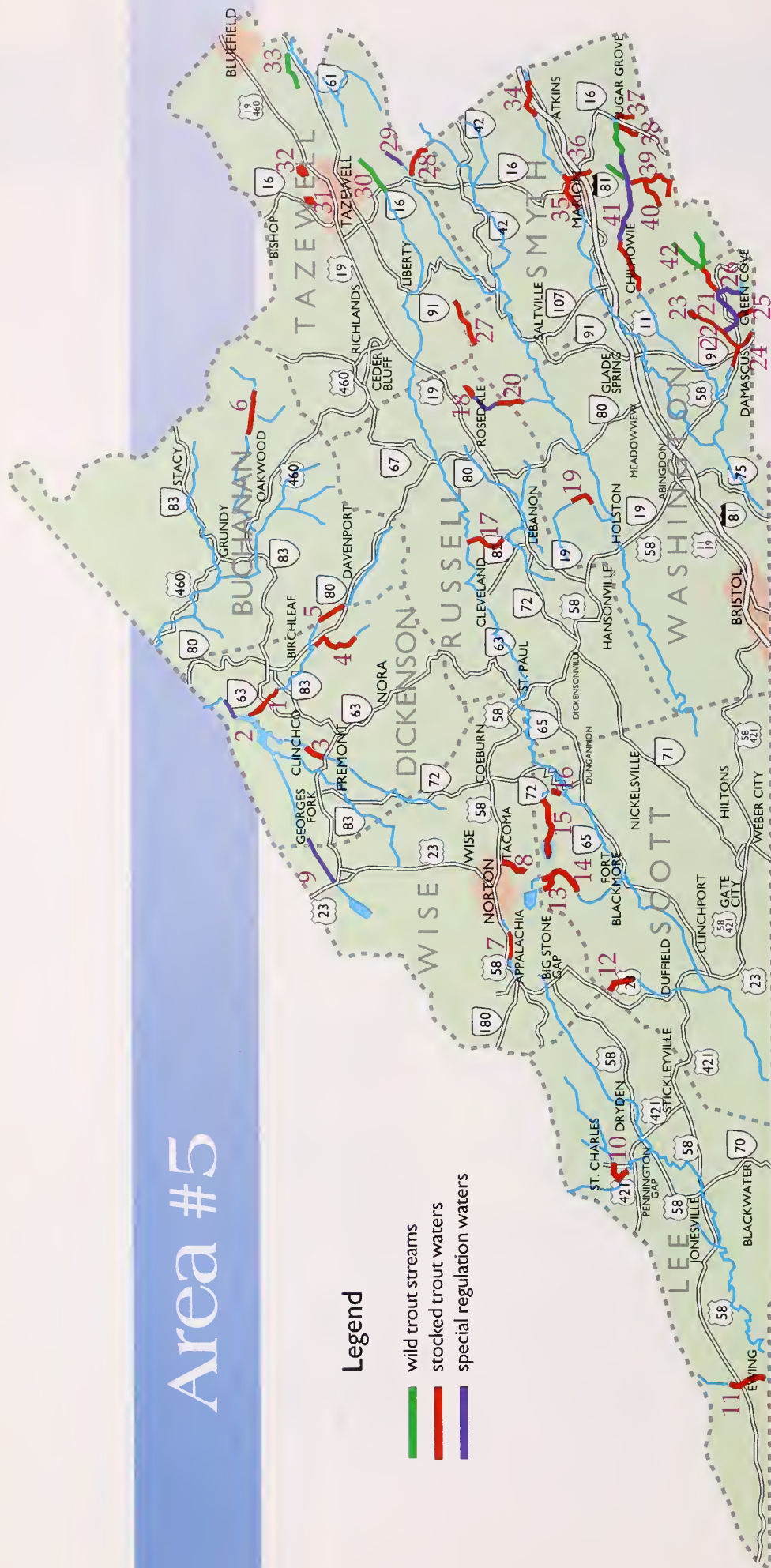
Grayson County

- (41) Hales Lakes
- (42) Elk Creek
- (43) Middle Fox Creek
- (44) Fox Creek
- (45) Big Wilson Creek
- (46) Helton Creek
- (47) Chestnut Creek

Area #5

Legend

- wild trout streams
- stocked trout waters
- special regulation waters



Dickenson County

- (1) Russell Fork River
- (2) Pound River
- (3) Cranesnest River
- (4) Frying Pan Creek

Buchanan County

- (5) Russell Fork River
- (6) Dismal River

Wise County

- (7) Middle Fork Powell River
- (8) Clear Creek
- (9) Pound River/ N. Fk. Pound River

Lee County

- (10) N. Fk. Powell River
- (11) Martins Creek

Scott County

- (12) Stock Creek
- (13) Straight Fork
- (14) Big Stony Creek
- (15) Bark Camp Lake
- (16) Little Stony Creek

Russell County

- (17) Big Cedar Creek
- (18) Laurel Bed Lake

Washington County

- (19) Big Brumley Creek
- (20) Big Tumbling Creek
- (21) Whitetop Laurel
- (22) Straight Branch
- (23) Beartree Lake
- (24) Tennessee Laurel
- (25) Valley Creek
- (26) Green Cove Creek

Tazewell County

- (27) Little Tumbling Creek
- (28) Laurel Creek
- (29) Roaring Fork
- (30) Maiden Spring Creek
- (31) Lake Witten
- (32) Lincolnshire Lake
- (33) Cove Creek

Smyth County

- (34) Middle Fk. Holston River (Upper)
- (35) Middle Fk. Holston River (Marion)
- (36) Staley Creek
- (37) Cressy Creek
- (38) Dickey Creek
- (39) Comers Creek
- (40) Hurricane Creek
- (41) S. Fk. Holston River
- (42) Little Laurel Creek

"Virginia's Fabulous Fauna" 2002 Contest Winners

by Lynda Richardson

Congratulations to all of you who entered the 2002 "Virginia's Fabulous Fauna" photography contest! This year's competition had the largest number of entries yet; 416 photographs submitted by 50 people. It was a tough competition to judge because there were so many great images but we finally narrowed it down to these winners! Enjoy, and be inspired!

Birds of a Feather

The *first place* winner for "Birds of a Feather" is John Altman of Orange, for his lovely image of a male cardinal in the snow. John reports that this photograph was shot in Orange County with a Canon EOS-7 camera, using a Canon 100-400 L IS lens, and shooting Fuji Superia X-TRA 400 print film. I like how the tree branch-

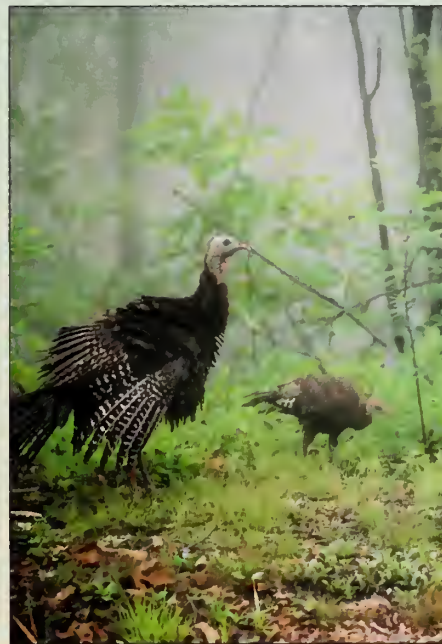


First Place, "Birds of a Feather," by John Altman.



Second Place, "Birds of a Feather," by Mundy Hackett.

es lean in the opposite direction of the bird's body and don't distract from the subject by cutting behind the head. The forward lean of the



Third Place, "Birds of a Feather," by Marty Judd.

cardinal combined with the blurred motion of falling snow really made this shot. Good job!

Second place goes to Mundy Hack-

ett of Richmond, who used a Canon EOS-3 camera and Fuji color print film to record this "humdinger" of a hummingbird. Getting this close to a hummingbird, stopping the action, and achieving a clean background is very hard to do. Great shot!

Marty Judd of McGaheysville, took *third place* with his photograph of a soggy hen turkey and one of her poults on a misty morning in the Shenandoah National Park. This picture was taken with a Canon EOS Rebel G, a Canon 80-200 zoom lens, and color print film. Beautiful!

This year, we have three honorable mentions in each category. An *honorable mention* is awarded to George Gibbs of Salem, for his image of a sleepy barred owl, photographed just after dawn along the Blue Ridge Parkway in Bedford County. George used a Nikon N-80 camera, a Tamron 200-400mm lens, and color print film to capture this shot. Great spotting!

Teresa Sturgeon of Poquoson, re-



Honorable Mention, "Birds of a Feather," by George Gibbs.



Honorable Mention, "Birds of a Feather," by Teresa Sturgeon.



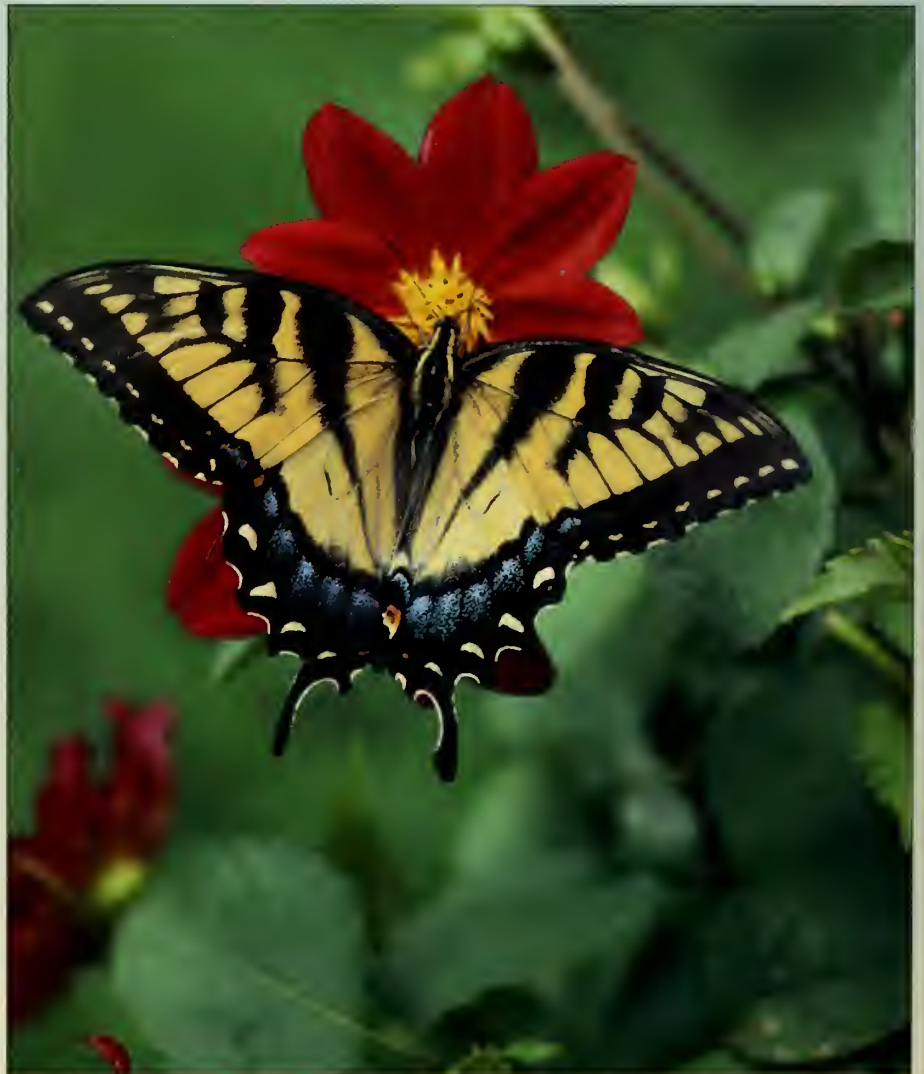
Honorable Mention, "Birds of a Feather," by Kate Burch.

ceives an *honorable mention* for her picture of a great blue heron with a fish photographed at Messick Point in Poquoson. I loved the texture and motion of the water surrounding the bird. Teresa writes that this photograph was taken with a Canon EOS Rebel 2000 camera, set on the Auto-Program mode using a Canon 70-210mm zoom lens, and color print film. Nice action!

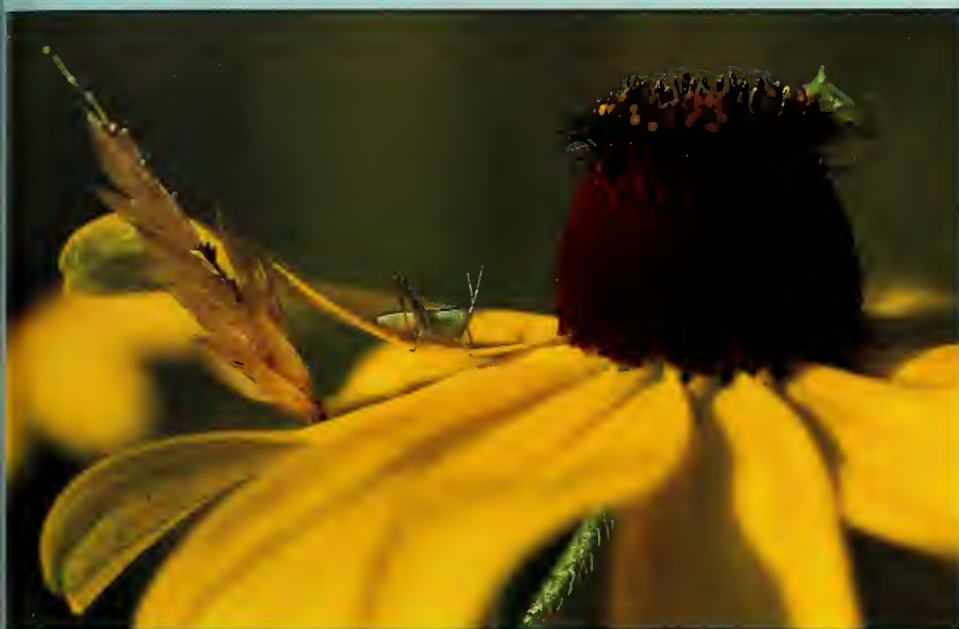
Kate Burch of Christiansburg, receives an *honorable mention* for her striking image of a hummingbird taken in her yard using a Canon EOS 10S and a 35-135mm zoom lens. I just love the motion in the wings and that fill-flash look! Kate reports that she wanted to get a picture of a hummingbird visiting the red cardinal flowers that her family had planted for hummingbirds. "So, I set my camera on a tripod in the flowerbed, hid behind a fence, and waited for the hummingbird to come. I am 13 years old and learned about photography with my 4-H Club this year." Boy, I wish I had been a member of that 4-H Club when I was growing up! You did an outstanding job on this photograph Kate!!! Congratulations!

Cold & Clammy Critters

"Cold & Clammy Critters," is always the biggest and most difficult



First Place, "Cold and Clammy" by John Sharp, Sr.



Second Place, "Cold and Clammy," by Randy Streufert.



Honorable Mention, "Cold and Clammy," by Lawrence Poole.



Third Place, "Cold and Clammy," by Lawrence Poole.

category to judge. There are so many beautiful shots of insects, spiders, butterflies, reptiles, and amphibians! This year's *first place* winner is John Sharp, Sr. of Deltaville, for his stunning image of a tiger swallowtail butterfly on a red dahlia. John shot this picture with a Minolta 7xi camera, a Minolta A-F, 100-300 zoom lens using Kodak Elite 100-slide film. Awesome!

Our *second place* winner is Randy Streufert of Mason Neck, for his delightful look at a tiny grasshopper on a cone-flower. Randy used a Nikon F5 camera with a Nikon 70-180 mm, f4.5 macro lens. He shot this image on Fuji Velvia slide film and his exposure was 1/30th of a second at F8.0 at 180mm. How cute!

Lawrence Poole of Newport News, takes *third place* for his unusual photograph of two caterpillars on an

azalea bush in his backyard. Lawrence reports that each year this type of caterpillar appears to dine on his azaleas. Lawrence used a Nikon F100 camera with a Nikon 70-300mm lens, a Bogen #3221 tripod with a #3413QR ball head, and Kodak Elite100 slide film. Great image!

An *honorable mention* also goes to Lawrence Poole for his delightful image of a green tree frog on top of a pink flower. Lawrence said he was out along Route 60, west of Williamsburg one misty morning when he spotted the frog crawling out from inside the flower. What a fabulous find! Lawrence used the same camera, lens, and film combination to get this shot as did with his third place winner. Beautiful!

Mundy Hackett of Richmond, wins an *honorable mention* for his close up picture of a crayfish. Mundy reports that he shot this with a Canon EOS-3 camera and Fuji Provia slide film, but didn't report exactly what types. I'm wondering how close he had to get to his subject! Good shot!

This bizarre photograph of a Chinese "praying" mantis, or should that read "preying," eating a hummingbird wins an *honorable mention* for Kristie Horton of Cartersville.



Honorable Mention, "Cold and Clammy," by Kristie Horton.

Kristie said, "I found it hard to believe the mantis could've held a struggling hummingbird much less be eating it." She reports that she watched and photographed the mantis eating the hummer for about 30 minutes "until Ms. Mantis got annoyed...and dropped the bird and hid back in the flowers." There was a large collection of butterfly parts on the ground below where she'd been. Kristie used a Minolta X700 camera, with a Vivitar Macro lens, and 200 speed print film to capture this unbelievable moment. Incredible!



First Place, "Fantastic Flowers," by Johnnie C. Stanley.



Honorable Mention, "Cold and Clammy," by Mundy Hackett.



Second Place, "Fantastic Flowers," by Lou Staunton.

Fantastic Flowers

In the category of "Fantastic Flowers," our *first place* award goes to Johnnie C. Stanley of Clintwood, for his striking image of a yellow lady slipper. This image was made on High Knob in Wise County, using a Nikon 60 Automatic camera, 100mm and 55mm close up lens, and Fuji print film. What a pretty shot!

Second place is awarded to Lou Staunton of Warrenton, for his up close and ground level view of fern fiddleheads. This image was made with a Nikon Coolpix 990 and was one of the best digital prints we received. Getting down low pays off! Excellent!

Marie Majarov of Winchester, receives *third place* for her shot of false turkey tails and lichen on a decaying log. Marie reports that this photograph was taken with a Canon EOS-1 N camera, a Canon 28-135 zoom lens, and Fuji Velvia slide film. Nice work!

Marty Judd wins again with an *honorable mention* for his image of Virginia creeper in fall colors on a misty day along the Appalachian Trail in the Shenandoah National Park. Marty used his Canon EOS Rebel G and a Canon 35-80mm zoom lens and print film. Good spotting!

We really got a chuckle out of this image titled "Muskrat Love," showing a muskrat which appears to be taking

a bouquet of daisies to his mate. For this delightful moment Jim Velcheck of Midlothian, wins an *honorable mention*. Wonderful!

George Gibbs does it again too with another *honorable mention* for his image of a dew covered, close-up view of a grass seed head. George reports that he knelt in the wet grass with his Nikon N-60 and a Tamron 90mm macro lens to capture this unusual image. Awesome!

A very special thanks goes out to all of our sponsors!!! Thanks to them our winners will get some really great prizes! First place winners will receive a brick of 20 rolls of Kodak VS 100 slide film and second place winners will receive 10 rolls of Kodak VS 100 slide film, all provided by Kodak Professional. Richmond Camera sponsors the third place prizes of a \$50 certificate for photofinishing at any of their locations around the state. *Virginia Wildlife* magazine contributes *Virginia Wildlife* magazine ball caps as the honorable mention prizes.

Please watch for the up-coming February 2003 issue of *Virginia Wildlife* magazine for the announcement of our newest and possibly the biggest contest yet! We look forward to seeing your submissions! Good luck and happy shooting!!! □



Honorable Mention, "Fantastic Flowers," by Marty Judd.



Honorable Mention, "Fantastic Flowers," by Jim Velcheck.



Third Place, "Fantastic Flowers," by Marie Majarov.



Honorable Mention, "Fantastic Flowers," by George Gibbs.

RECIPES

by Joan Cone

Winter Trout Dinner

With the ushering in of the New Year, the freshwater trout season opens. Some of you will venture into the cold for some recreation in the off-season. But those of you who prefer to sit by a warm fire, can purchase freshwater trout, some of which have been raised in Virginia.

In 1991, the Virginia Trout Farmers Association was organized to represent commercial trout farming which began in 1950. By 1994, Virginia ranked 5th in the nation with a farm value of over \$2 million. Sadly over the decade, this has decreased, so that now Virginia ranks 8th with a value of \$1.64 million. Drought is the main cause followed by predators and a decrease in operators.

Menu

*Broiled Rainbow Trout With
Lemon-Almond Sauce
Dijon Pasta Primavera
Orange Lettuce Salad
Apple Cranberry Pie*

Broiled Rainbow Trout With Lemon-Almond Sauce

1½ pounds rainbow trout fillets
Salt to taste
Dash of pepper
Dash of cayenne pepper
1 tablespoon lemon juice

Place fish on an aluminum foil-lined baking pan. Season with salt, peppers, and lemon juice. Broil 4 to 5 inches from heat source about 5 minutes or until fish flakes easily with a

fork. While fish is cooking, prepare sauce. Transfer fish to a warm serving platter. Pour sauce over fish and serve. Serves 4.

Lemon-Almond Sauce

½ cup butter or margarine
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 tablespoon chopped onion
1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley
¼ cup sliced almonds

Combine butter, lemon juice and onion in a saucepan and cook over medium heat, stirring occasionally until butter melts. Stir in parsley and almonds. Keep sauce warm until fish is ready to serve.

Dijon Pasta Primavera

8 ounces uncooked tubed pasta
1 package (16 ounces) frozen vegetable combination (broccoli, cauliflower and carrots)
¼ cup water
1 cup sour cream, regular or light
1 tablespoon Dijon-style mustard
½ teaspoon dried basil leaves
Shredded Parmesan cheese

Cook pasta according to package directions. Rinse with hot water, drain and keep warm. In a 4-quart saucepan, combine vegetables and water. Cover and cook over medium heat until vegetables are crisply tender, 5 to 6 minutes. Stir in sour cream, mustard and basil. Continue cooking until heated through and season with salt and pepper. Toss vegetables and sauce with hot cooked pasta. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. Makes 4 servings.

Orange Lettuce Salad

Enough green leaf lettuce, torn, for 4 salad plates
2 medium navel oranges, peeled and sectioned
1 small red onion, sliced and separated into rings
¼ cup olive oil
2 tablespoons vinegar
2 teaspoons sugar
2 teaspoons poppy seeds
Salt and pepper to taste

Arrange lettuce on 4 salad plates. Top with oranges and onion rings. In a small bowl, combine the remaining ingredients. Drizzle over salads and serve immediately. Makes 4 servings.

Apple Cranberry Pie

Pastry for 9-inch, two crust pie
¾ cup brown sugar
¼ cup sugar
⅓ cup flour
1 teaspoon cinnamon
4 cups pared, sliced, tart apples
2 cups fresh or frozen cranberries, whole or chopped
2 tablespoons butter or margarine

Preheat oven to 425° F. In large bowl, combine sugars, flour and cinnamon. Add fruit. Mix well. Turn into pastry-lined pan. Dot with butter. Cover and cut slits in top crust. Seal edges. Bake 40 minutes or until golden brown. Makes 8 servings. □





story and illustration
by Spike Knuth

Naturally Wild



Rainbow Trout *Oncorhynchus mykiss*

The trout fishing season attracts thousands of anglers to Virginia's many trout streams which are stocked annually by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. While Virginia has a native population of brook trout, additional brookies as well as brown trout are stocked, but the majority of stocked trout are rainbows.

Rainbow trout have proven to be the most adaptable of all trout for stocking, and this western native has taken well to the smaller, eastern streams. Due to its tolerance of wide-ranging water temperatures and because it's the easiest of trout to rear in hatcheries, the rainbow is the backbone of Virginia's trout-rearing and stocking program. Fish culturists found that hatchery rainbows have proven to be hardy and, if given a chance to adjust to their surroundings, they integrate well into wild populations.

The rainbow trout is the most widely distributed and probably the best known of our trout. In the United States, the rainbow was originally native to the western slopes of the Rockies. Here it was found in two basic types, the sea or lake-run rainbow—called steelheads—and the inland stream, or lake-dwelling rainbows. Numerous races of rainbows have been developed in various lakes around the country as well, including the Kamloops, Shasta, or McConaughy—each being a little different.

Most Virginia rainbows are stream fish and they spawn in March. In other parts of North

America they spawn from January to June, sometimes as late as August in some cold, northern waters. Usually, they spawn at the lower ends of pools or in riffles where the female digs out a spawning bed or "redd." Spawning is rare in lakes with no tributaries, although trout will often go on false spawning runs. Most wild rainbows are strictly stream fish. Hatchery culturists have altered the natural spring spawning time so that there are now fall spawners. Some wild descendants of these hatchery fish now spawn naturally in fall. About 800 to 1,000 eggs are laid in whatever season they spawn, a little more productive than brooks or browns.

Large reservoir rainbows feed on forage fish such as alewives, threadfin shad, or whatever the main forage is in that particular lake. Rain-

bows in clear, cold, somewhat sterile lakes are equipped with fine gill-rakers, enabling them to strain out tiny organisms. Virginia trout feed on a variety of aquatic and terrestrial life. Large rainbows prefer small fishes, but their main diet is invertebrates. The variety of rainbows has resulted in a variety of colors, hues, and markings. Some have the classic rainbow coloration, while others are very dark and some are silver. Normally the rainbow's back is olive-green with a silvery cast on its sides fading to a silvery white belly. A pinkish or light rosy red band extends from its cheek to near its tail. Its anal fin is often tipped in white, especially in streambed fish. Usually, they are well spotted with black spots. The varieties of rainbows may have large spots, tiny specks, and some are even unmarked. □



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